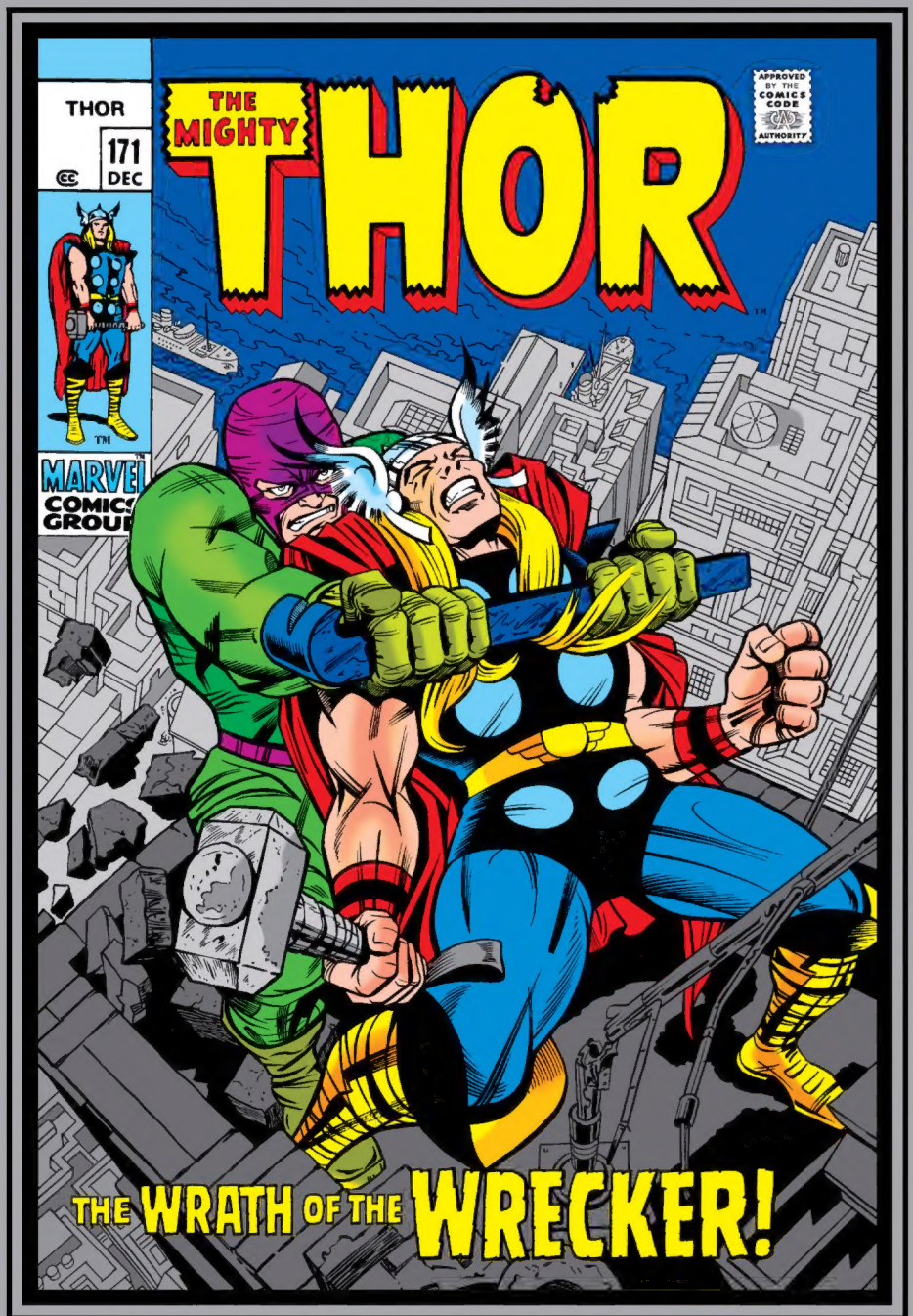
# MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
# THE MIGHTY THOR®
## VOLUME 8

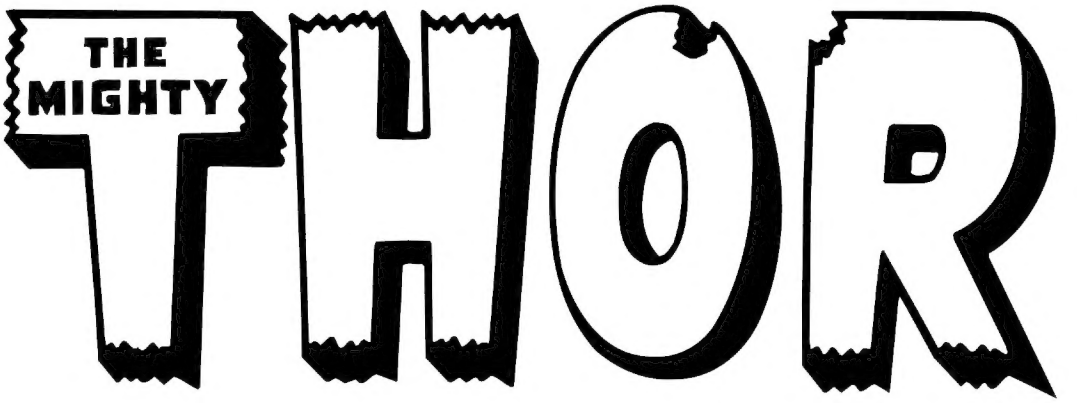



THE MIGHTY THOR Nos. 163-172
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS




VOLUME 8

COLLECTING

THE MIGHTY THOR Nos. 163-172

STAN LEE • JACK KIRBY

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# MARVEL MASTERWORKS
## CREDITS

THE
## MIGHTY THOR
Nos. 163-172

Writer: Stan Lee

Penciler: Jack Kirby

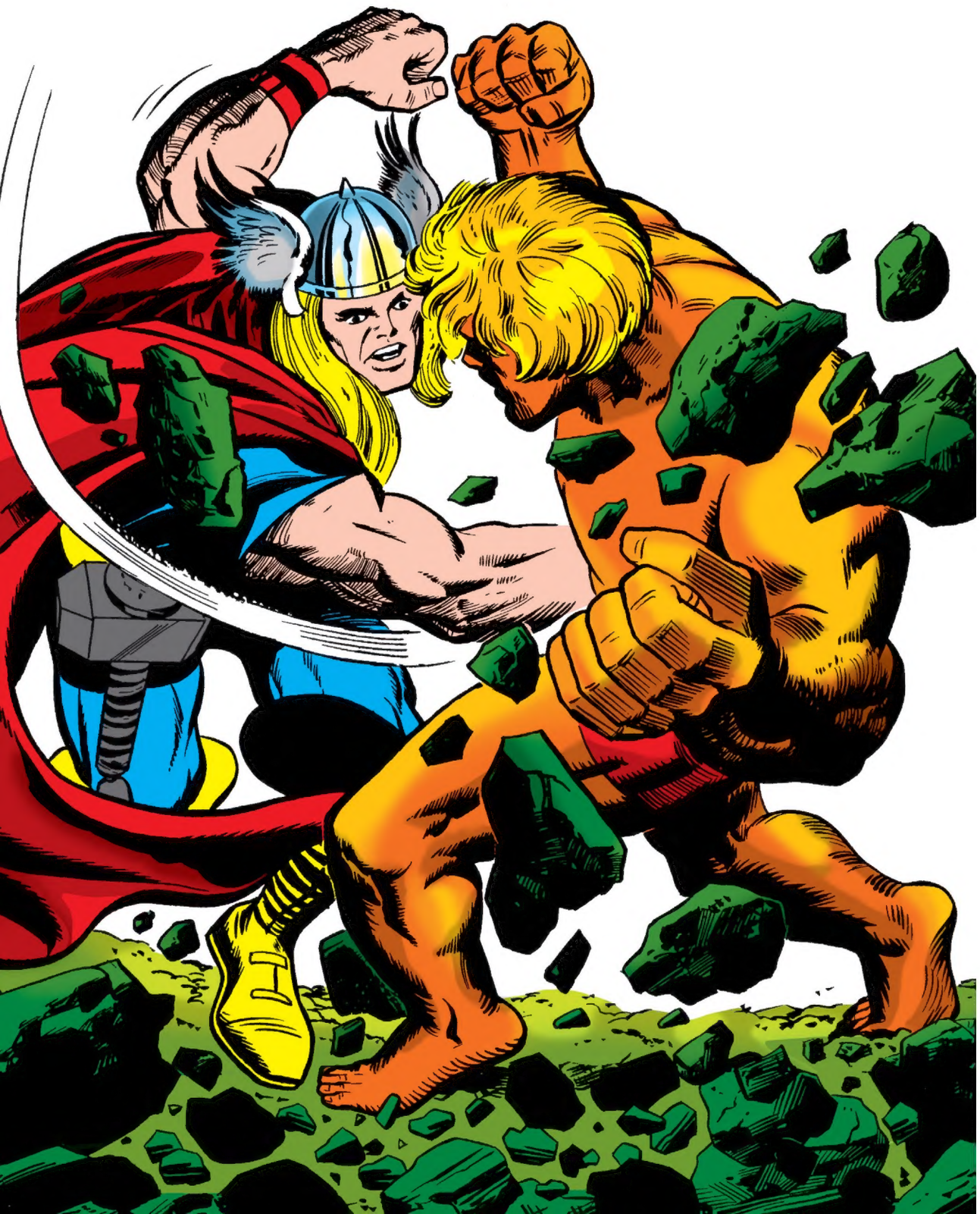
Inkers: Vince Colletta (Nos. 163-167)
George Klein (Nos. 168, 169)
Bill Everett (Nos. 170-172)

Letterers: Sam Rosen (Nos. 163, 164, 166, 171)
Art Simek (Nos. 165, 167-170, 172)

Color Reconstruction: Wesley Wong

Art Reconstruction: Chris Fama

Special Thanks: Ralph Macchio



# MARVEL MASTERWORKS
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"This World Renounced!"

*The Mighty Thor #168, September 1969*
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*The Mighty Thor #169, October 1969*
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# INTRODUCTION
## BY JON B. COOKE

I needn't be the one to tell you: the sheer grandeur and epic scope of Jack Kirby's *Thor* run in the mid- to later 1960s is breathtaking. While at the same time producing splendid stories for "Captain America" (in *Tales of Suspense* and then Cap's own title) and some of the best adventure comics ever in an amazing run of *The Fantastic Four,* "The King" was obviously having a ball between '65 and '68 (or so), depicting Norse mythology *a la* Kirby as the Thunder God was in his four-color prime. The artist/co-plotter's imagination was ferociously unleashed as rarely before, his creativity unrestrained as concept upon concept was hurled at awed readers. But then, perceptively, by the latter part of the decade, the tone of the genius's work had changed, as ideas seemed a little rehashed at times, notions a tad rote, creativity decidedly leashed. Oh, the stories were generally exciting and moved at a rapid clip, but an element was, well, missing. Fans of ol' Goldilocks must have figured something had to be going on behind the scenes.

The truth is that Jack was growing more and more frustrated within the hallowed halls of Marvel, and he was feeling restless during that tail end of his most celebrated tenure at the House of Ideas, a time when the brilliant creator (along with writer/editor Stan Lee and fellow artist Steve Ditko) built up the comics line to irrevocably change the industry forever. Some of his concerns were about business, some about credit, and others about creative issues. Among his creative grievances, "The King" was steamed about Stan's rejection of Kirby's interpretations of certain characters, among them Doctor Doom and the Silver Surfer, as well as the direction of *The Mighty Thor* storyline. Jack's (more nuanced, perhaps) version saw Victor von Doom as a victim of his own megalomaniacal vanity, and the Kirby Silver Surfer was less based on Stan's take on the character as a comic-book Wandering Jew and more Lucifer, the fallen angel. His plans for the Thunder God's title? Why, nothing less than all-out Armageddon! More on that later, but suffice to say that during the period he produced the issues of *Thor* reprinted herein this collection, these were edgy days for "Jolly Jack."

While the issues of *Thor* featured in this tome may not be the best of Jack's run on the Thunder God, much of it is great (if occasionally wonky) fun, and they're perfectly representational of the creator's bittersweet end-of-days at '60s Marvel. On the high end, for instance, is the reappearance of "Him," one of the last of Jack's unique concepts of that era, originated just prior to his self-imposed creativity clampdown, in *Fantastic Four* #66-67. In a recent conversation with yours truly, *The Jack Kirby Collector* editor John Morrow wondered if "The King" might have had big plans for the orange-skinned "less than human, far, far more than man" godling, intentions Jack might have previously had for the Silver Surfer. Whatever his designs, Jack's Him obviously inspired others, most notably Roy Thomas and Gil Kane, who transformed the character into the messianic Adam Warlock, and Jim Starlin, who refined the Warlock saga to even greater heights, rare cases of taking a Kirby concept and making something more out of it, in this case a kind of "Christ as super hero" epic.

In 1969, a strange and mystifying edict came from on high at the comics house (that is, apparently from the office of publisher Martin Goodman or mayhap Marvel's new corporate owners, Cadence Industries), one "Smiley Stan" said in his "Soapbox" column, was "so momentous that it's taken us months to get up the nerve to make it!" Marvel Comics, pretty much the originator of continued stories—"Next Ish"; "To Be Hulk-inued"; and Thor's own "To Be-eth Continued"—the one imprint where epics could unfold over multiple issues and where story arcs were given the luxury of developing months at a time would cease to feature continued stories. While the policy would be rescinded within a few months, Jack must have been livid at this arbitrary (dare I say, boneheaded) decree given his masterpieces could take a year or more to culminate.

In fact, Jack's "Galactus A'Borning" saga takes up a good chunk of that year, starting in #160 and finally, after starting and stopping, stopping and starting, concludes (if you can call it a conclusion)

in #169, and the herky-jerky, on-again off-again storytelling leads one to wonder if there was more than a bit of editorial interference behind the comics. After all, #161 promises the next issue to include a "mind-snapper," the origin of the cosmic planet-eater, yet #162 contains anything but (though it does contain images of Galactus chowing down on the world of his birth!), despite the title, "Galactus is Born!" And, given the evidence of rejected pages (some of which did subsequently appear in the Marvelmania's *Jack Kirby Portfolio* (1970) and the *Kirby Unleashed Portfolio* ('71)), never mind the fact the story seems to be headed for a Galactus-Thor team-up ("Together for the first time: To save planet Earth!") which abruptly stops almost in mid-sentence…well, suffice to say this one appears to have taken a left turn at Albuquerque. Could it be objections, just like ones raised regarding his interpretations of the Surfer and Doom, were used against Jack's approach to the Marvel version of God?

But enough "Behind the Comics": Let's not overlook the great stuff there is for all to see and appreciate some of the masterful touches added by others to Jack's plotting and artistry. Even the silliest of stories (#172's "The Immortal and the Mind-Slave," anyone?) still features the endearing, if oft times corny, dialogue by the indomitable Stan Lee, and perennial *Thor* inker Vince Colletta sometimes puts in a full effort in some of these episodes. But it's the embellishments of the great Bill Everett most worthy of mention. Everett—an extraordinary cartoonist in his own right whose work with the publisher stretched back to *Marvel Comics* #1 and the debut of "Wild Bill's" greatest creation, the Sub-Mariner—clearly relished the opportunity to ink Jack's pencils given the care and detail found on the printed page. A grotesque pairing? Maybe, but in this writer's estimation, "grotesque" in the best sense: strangely beautiful and wonderfully bizarre.

You'll be forgiving, one hopes, if I risk more controversy by also making note of George Klein's brief stint as *Thor* inker, not only because yours truly finds praise in the "Chic Stone-esque" vibe George achieves—#169's opening splash is especially effective—but also due to the sad distinction that the artist's death was announced immediately after his *Thor* work, in the Marvel Bullpen Bulletins of #170. While George's inks over Curt Swan in mid-'60s *Jimmy Olsen* and upon the pencils of John Buscema in *The Avengers* might be deemed superior material, I always admired the simple panache of his efforts on the Thunder God. The embellisher, by the way, is suspected by some to have been the identity of the mystery inker of *Fantastic Four* #1 and 2, though methinks that's a stretch.

Shortly after the issues in this volume first appeared, Jack dropped a bombshell on Stan, as well as the entire comic book community: "The King" would be moving over to join the "Distinguished Competition" (that's DC Comics in non-geek talk), where he was promised full creative control over a quartet of titles that would subsequently be collectively known as "Jack Kirby's Fourth World." A few years prior to that newsflash, in happier days at Marvel, Jack's intentions for *The Mighty Thor* (remember the "Armageddon" crack?) was to actually conclude the series. Legend has it that he pitched Stan the idea to give Goldilocks and all of his Norse brethren deaths befitting warriors. Jack hoped to have Ragnarok descend upon Asgard (for real this time!) and, in a holocaust of cosmic violence, destroy all the "Old Gods." This "Twilight of the Immortals" would then give way to a new breed of deities to be called, you guessed it, "The New Gods."

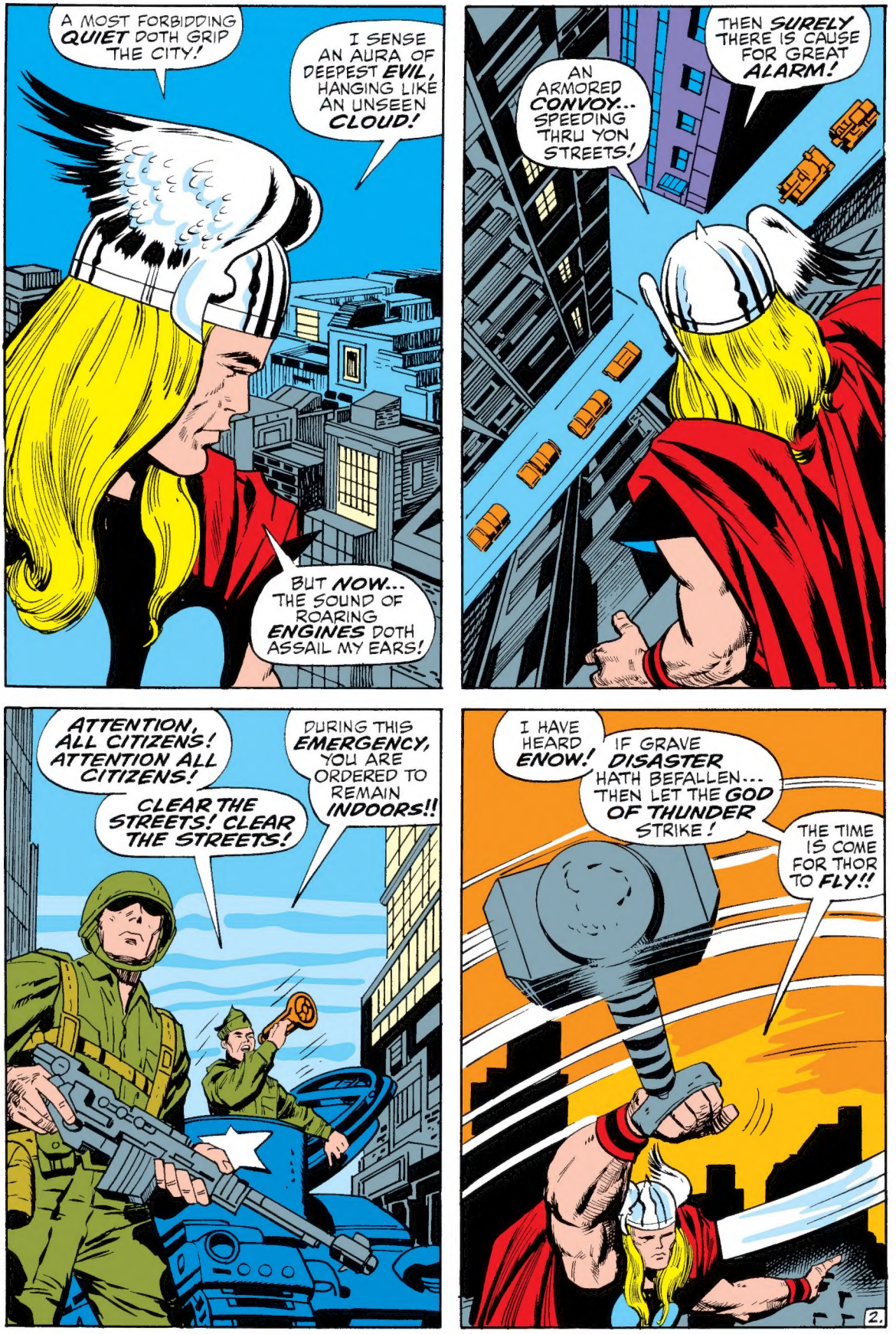
But forget Apokolips and New Genesis. You're in the realm of Odin & Sons now, in the mythical world of Asgard, home of the alive-and-well Viking gods, so come hither, yon reader, and enjoy some of Stan and Jack's final collaborations at mighty Marvel during the swinging '60s. Verily!

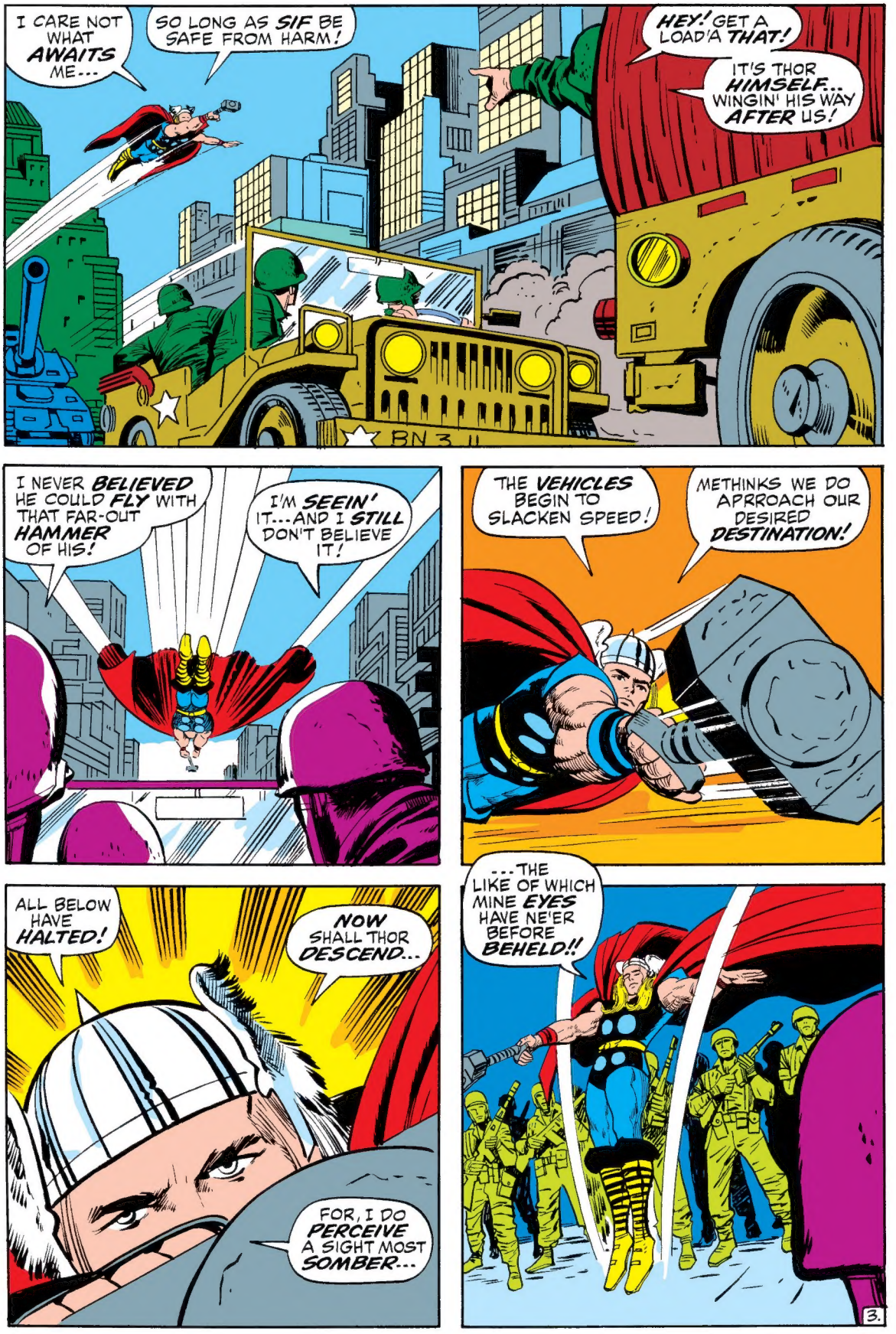
**2008**

*Jon B. Cooke is editor of the five-time Eisner Award-winning magazine* Comic Book Artist *and is also the writer/producer of the full-length feature film documentary* Will Eisner: Portrait of a Sequential Artist. *He is currently working with brother Andrew D. Cooke on a movie about the life of Jack "The King" Kirby. A freelance graphic designer by day, Jon lives in West Kingston, Rhode Island, with his wife and three sons. (Many thanks to John Morrow for his able assist.)*

THOR
12¢
IND.
163
APR
THE MIGHTY
THOR
™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
WHERE DWELL THE DEMONS!

THE MIGHTY THOR!
TM
WHERE DWELL THE DEMONS!
I MUST FIND THE STUNNING SIF!
THERE BE STRANGE DANGER HERE ON EARTH···
IT MUST NOT STRIKE SHE WHOM I LOVE!
PRODUCED BY: STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
INKING: VINCE COLLETTA • LETTERING: SAM ROSEN

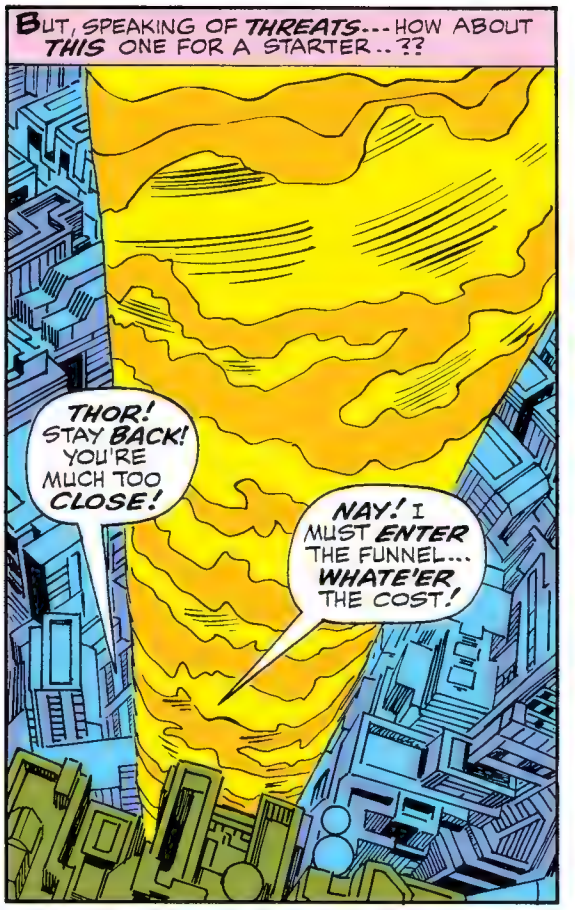

A MOST FORBIDDING QUIET DOTH GRIP THE CITY!
I SENSE AN AURA OF DEEPEST EVIL, HANGING LIKE AN UNSEEN CLOUD!
BUT NOW... THE SOUND OF ROARING ENGINES DOTH ASSAIL MY EARS!
AN ARMORED CONVOY... SPEEDING THRU YON STREETS!
THEN SURELY THERE IS CAUSE FOR GREAT ALARM!
ATTENTION, ALL CITIZENS! ATTENTION ALL CITIZENS!
CLEAR THE STREETS! CLEAR THE STREETS!
DURING THIS EMERGENCY, YOU ARE ORDERED TO REMAIN INDOORS!!
I HAVE HEARD ENOW!
IF GRAVE DISASTER HATH BEFALLEN... THEN LET THE GOD OF THUNDER STRIKE!
THE TIME IS COME FOR THOR TO FLY!!
2.

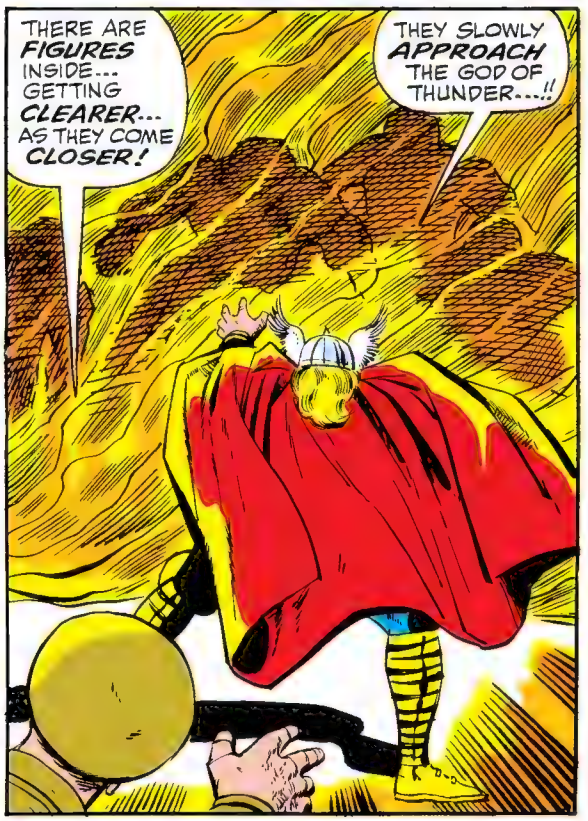

I CARE NOT WHAT AWAITS ME...
SO LONG AS SIF BE SAFE FROM HARM!
HEY! GET A LOAD'A THAT!
IT'S THOR HIMSELF... WINGIN' HIS WAY AFTER US!
BN 3
I NEVER BELIEVED HE COULD FLY WITH THAT FAR-OUT HAMMER OF HIS!
I'M SEEIN' IT...AND I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THE VEHICLES BEGIN TO SLACKEN SPEED!
METHINKS WE DO APRROACH OUR DESIRED DESTINATION!
ALL BELOW HAVE HALTED!
NOW SHALL THOR DESCEND...
FOR, I DO PERCEIVE A SIGHT MOST SOMBER...
...THE LIKE OF WHICH MINE EYES HAVE NE'ER BEFORE BEHELD!!
3.

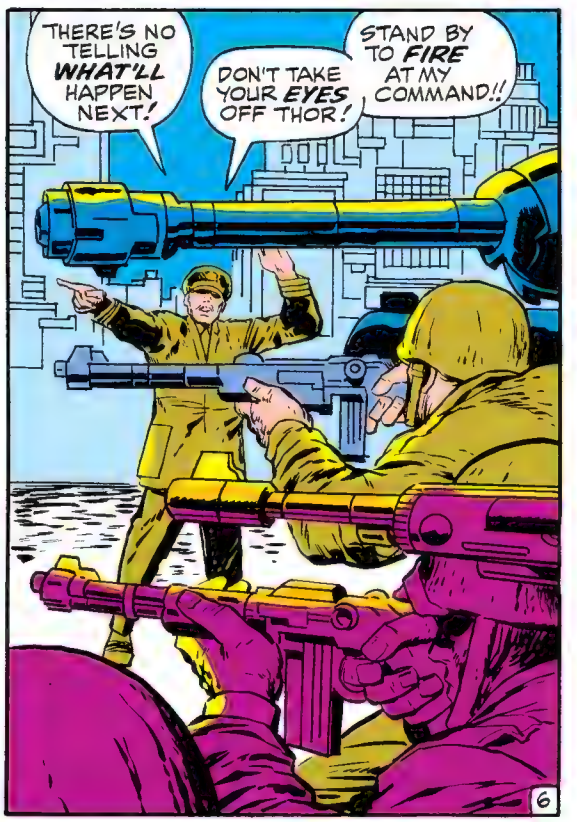
THOR! DON'T GET TOO CLOSE!
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT STUFF IS!
ALL WE CAN BE SURE OF IS THAT THIS WAS THE SITE OF THE CITY ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER...
BUT EVERYTHING'S VANISHED NOW!
CAREFUL, GENERAL! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE OF THAT!
A STRANGE, WHIRLING FUNNEL... COMPOSED OF MYSTIC, NAMELESS FORCES!
--'TIS SURELY THIS THAT HATH ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE GODDESS SIF!
SIF?? IS THAT THE STRANGELY-COSTUMED FEMALE WHO WAS HERE ONE MINUTE...?
AND THEN, BEFORE OUR EYES... SHE WAS WHISKED INSIDE THAT THING?
THERE WAS A GIRL... A STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL CREATURE ... WHO SAID IT WAS HER DUTY TO INVESTIGATE!
HER SPEECH WAS AS UNUSUAL, AS ARCHAIC, AS YOURS!
THEN 'TWAS SHE! OF THAT THERE BE NO DOUBT!
WAIT! STOP! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO??
I SEEK TO JOIN MY LADY SIF!
AND YET-- NOT E'EN MJOLNIR MAY BREACH YON FUNNEL!
4.

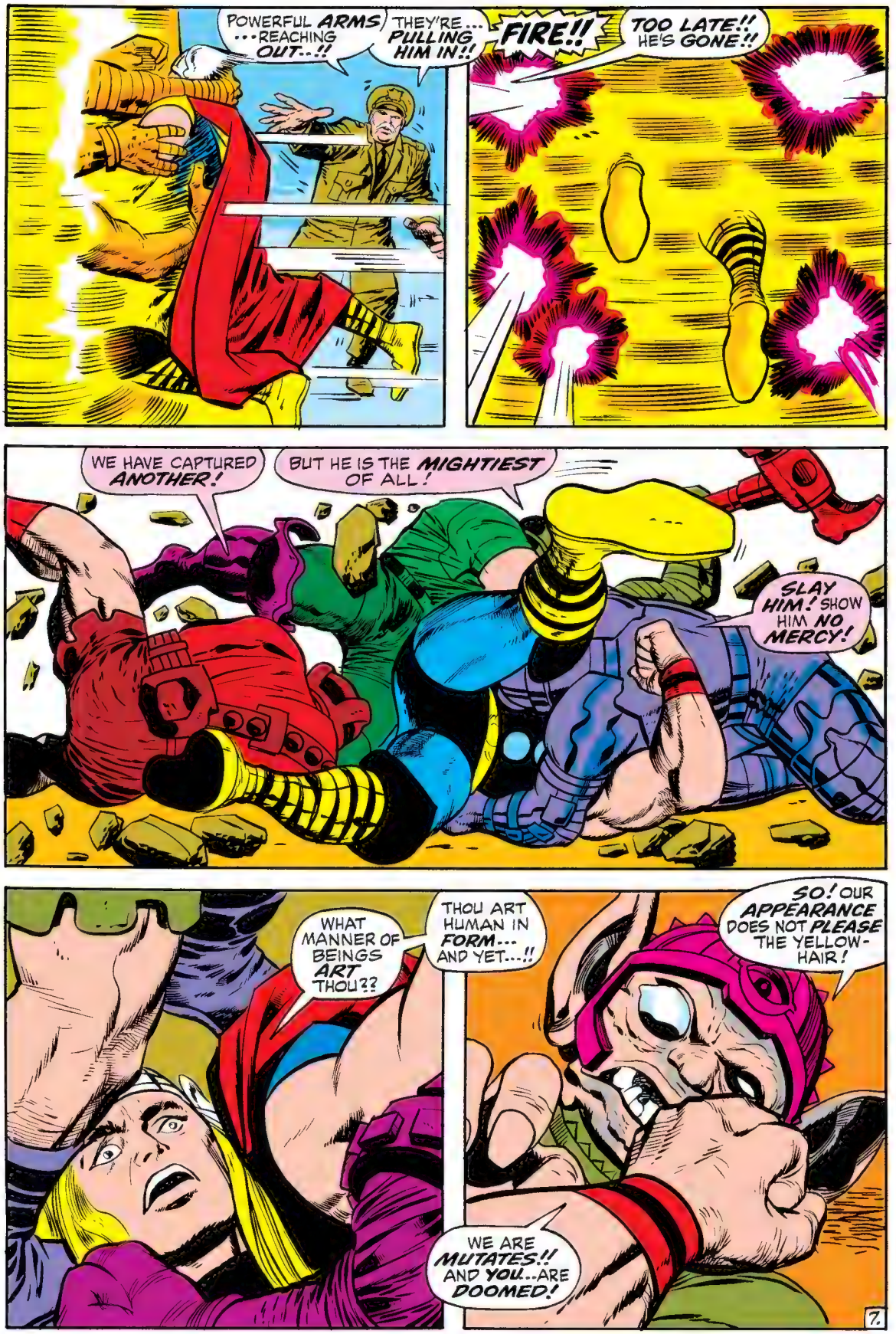
WITHIN THE TURBULENCE... MINE EYES PERCEIVE A THING ALIVE!
IT DOTH APPROACH ...IT DRAWS EVER NEARER--!
MEANWHILE, LET US APPROACH THE FABLED REALM OF ASGARD, WHERE A BROODING ODIN STANDS...
A STRANGE DISQUIETUDE NOW GRIPS MY BREAST!
FOR, GALACTUS LIVETH STILL!
SIRE! THOU DIDST SEND FOR THY KEEPER OF ANTIQUITIES?
AY! APPROACH THE PRESENCE, ANCIENT ONE!
I WOULD BEHOLD THY BOOK OF AGES!
I KNOW WHAT THOU SEEKEST... BUT 'TIS NOT HERE!
NOUGHT IS KNOWN OF THE DREAD GALACTUS SAVE WHAT THEE THYSELF HATH LEARNED!
5

AND YET... I MUST LEARN THE SECRET OF THE INCUBA-SPHERE FROM WHENCE HE WAS SPAWNED!
FOR, UNTIL I DO... THE THREAT TO ASGARD WILL NE'ER BE ENDED!


BUT, SPEAKING OF THREATS... HOW ABOUT THIS ONE FOR A STARTER..??
THOR! STAY BACK! YOU'RE MUCH TOO CLOSE!
NAY! I MUST ENTER THE FUNNEL... WHATE'ER THE COST!


THERE ARE FIGURES INSIDE... GETTING CLEARER... AS THEY COME CLOSER!
THEY SLOWLY APPROACH THE GOD OF THUNDER...!!


THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT!
DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THOR!
STAND BY TO FIRE AT MY COMMAND!!
6


POWERFUL ARMS ...REACHING OUT..!!
THEY'RE... PULLING HIM IN!!
FIRE!!
TOO LATE!! HE'S GONE!!
WE HAVE CAPTURED ANOTHER!
BUT HE IS THE MIGHTIEST OF ALL!
SLAY HIM! SHOW HIM NO MERCY!
WHAT MANNER OF BEINGS ART THOU??
THOU ART HUMAN IN FORM... AND YET...!!
SO! OUR APPEARANCE DOES NOT PLEASE THE YELLOW-HAIR!
WE ARE MUTATES!! AND YOU..ARE DOOMED!
7.

NONE SO THREATEN THE GOD OF THUNDER!!
IF THOU BE FROM EARTH ...NEVER HAVE I SEEN THE LIKE!
THOU HAST THE TRAPPINGS OF SAVAGERY...
AND YET, THERE ARE GREAT FORCES AT THY CONTROL!
WE HAVE GATHERED WEAPONS...SINCE THE DAYS OF THE MONSTROUS FIRE CLOUD!
WEAPONS THAT WILL SERVE US NOW!!
8

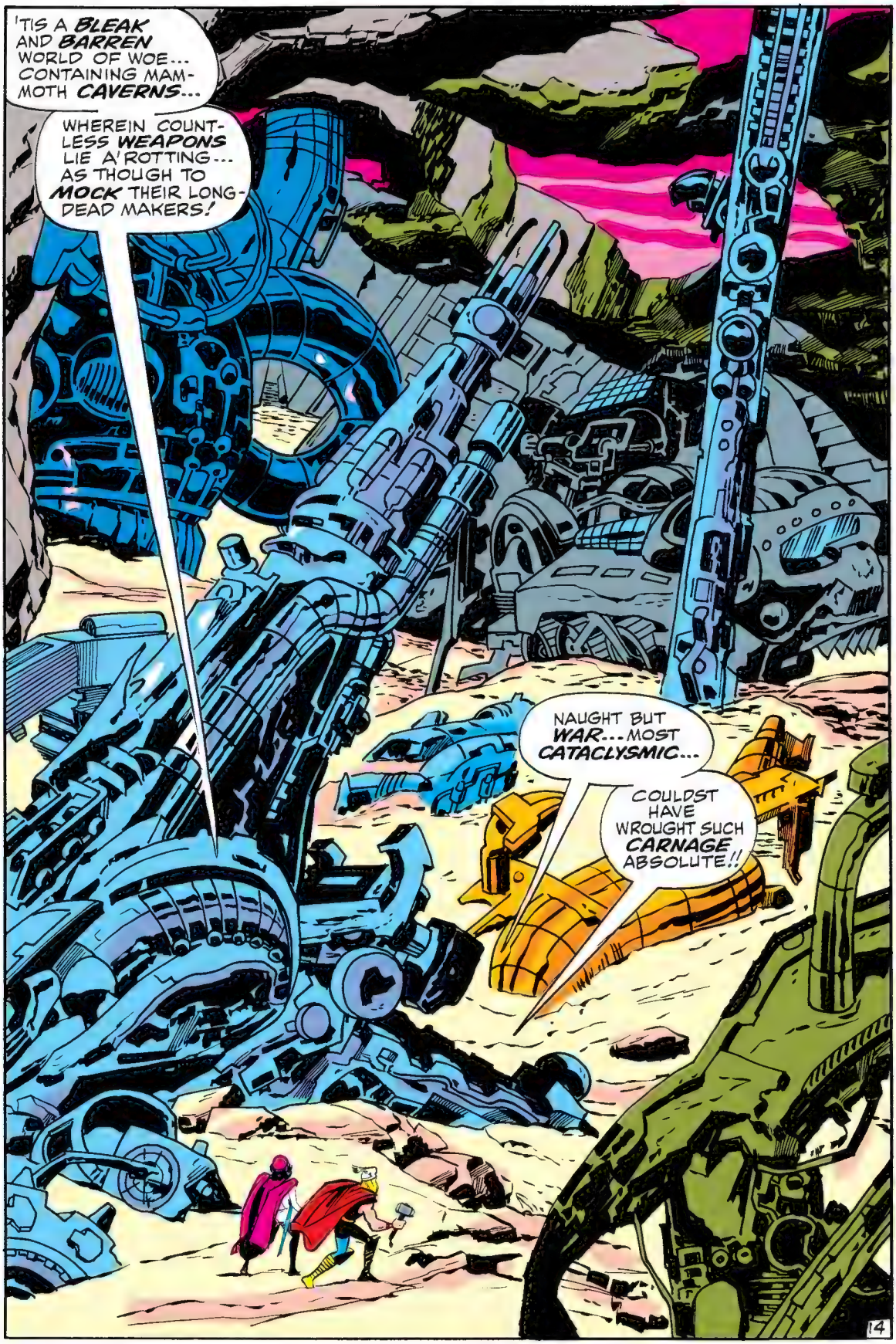
I KNOW NOT WHY THOU FIGHTEST WITHOUT CAUSE!
BUT, IF BATTLE BE THE CRY...
---THEN THOR SHALL NOT BE WANTING!!
BUT, MORE THAN BATTLE IS MY GOAL...
I SEEK THE NOBLE GODDESS SIF!
IF SHE BE HARMED... THEN ALL SHALL RUE THIS DAY!!
NOW BRING HER FORTH... OR FACE THE FURTHER WRATH OF THOR!!
9.

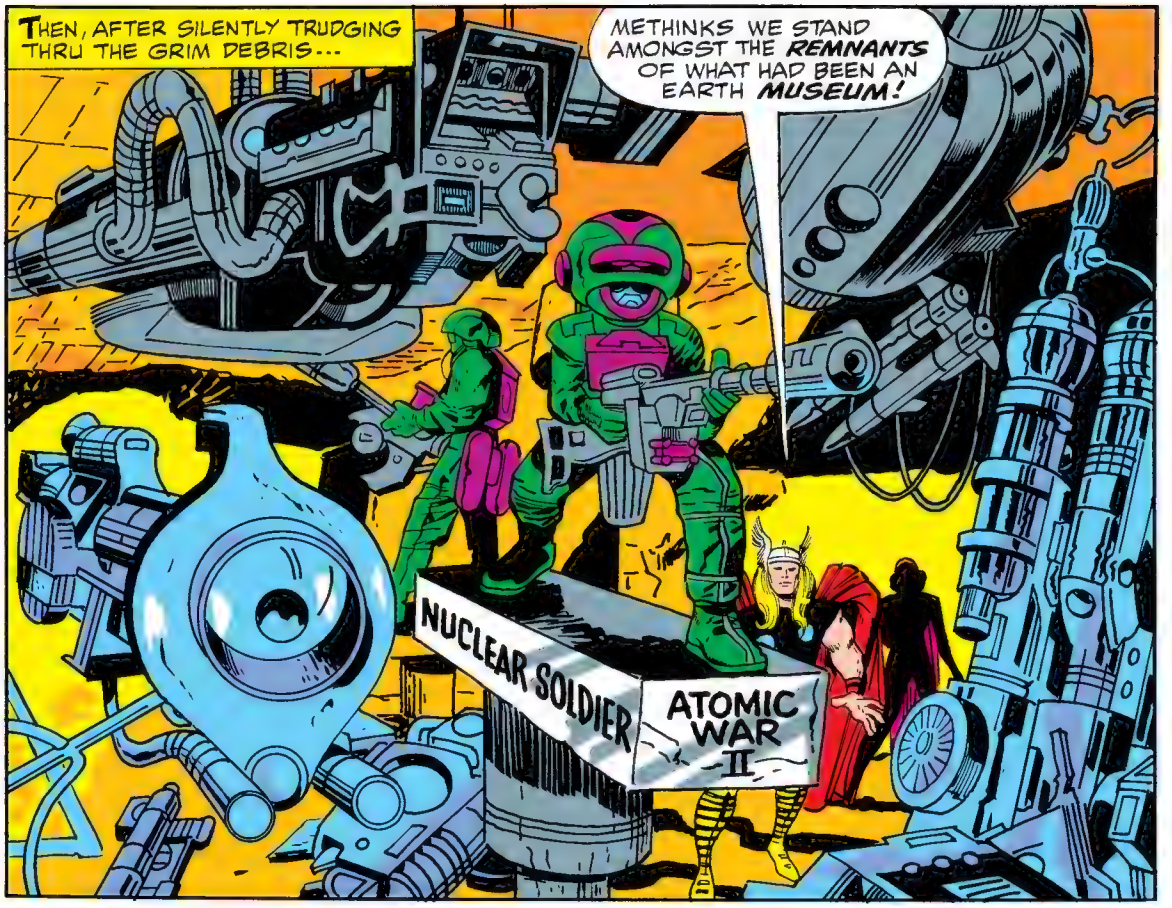
THERE IS NO WRATH AS DEADLY AS THE WRATH OF THE MUTATES!!
MY LORD... THOU HAST FOUND ME!
BUT, HAVE A CARE! THEY ARE TRULY DEMONS ...DEMONS FROM OUT OF TIME!
THEY HOLD ME CAPTIVE BY MEANS OF ATTRACTO-SPHERES! THUS IS THY LADY HELPLESS!
HIM, WHO DOTH FACE THEE NOW, IS LEADER OF THE MUTATES... HE IS DEADLIEST OF ALL!

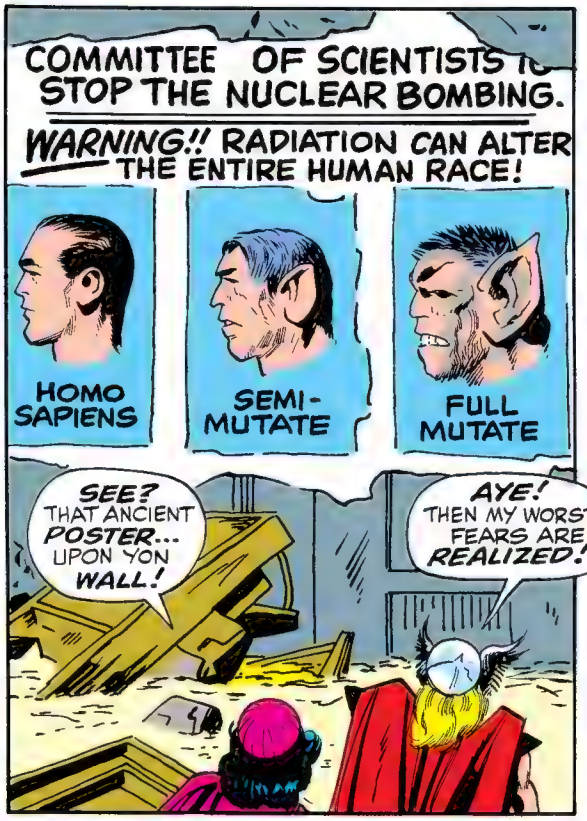
SO! THE STRANGER HAS DEFEATED MY SAVAGE GUARD!
BUT I AM CHIEF... BECAUSE NONE CAN MATCH MY POWER!
NONE MAY-HAP...SAVE MIGHTY THOR!
YOU?? A SMOOTH-SKINNED, LONE INTRUDER??
YOU... WHO HAVE THE FORM AND FEATURES OF A LOWLY HUMAN??
MY PEOPLE DESPISED THEM ...BECAUSE THE HUMANS WOULD NOT FIGHT!
BUT THE MUTATES LIVE FOR BATTLE!!
AND WE ATTACK... WE DESTROY ANYTHING HUMAN... ON SIGHT!
11.

SO BE IT!
THEN THE GOD OF THUNDER NEED SHOW THEE NO MERCY!
FOR THEY WHO LIVE BY VIOLENCE...
MOST SURELY WILL SO PERISH!!
THIS WEAPON... WHICH WE SEIZED FROM THE UNSUSPECTING HUMANS...
WILL MAKE YOU TOO A PRISONER OF THE UNBREAKABLE ATTRACTO-SPHERE!
THOR SAYS THEE NAY!
NOT WHILE MJOLNIR STILL CANST STRIKE!
PTOOM

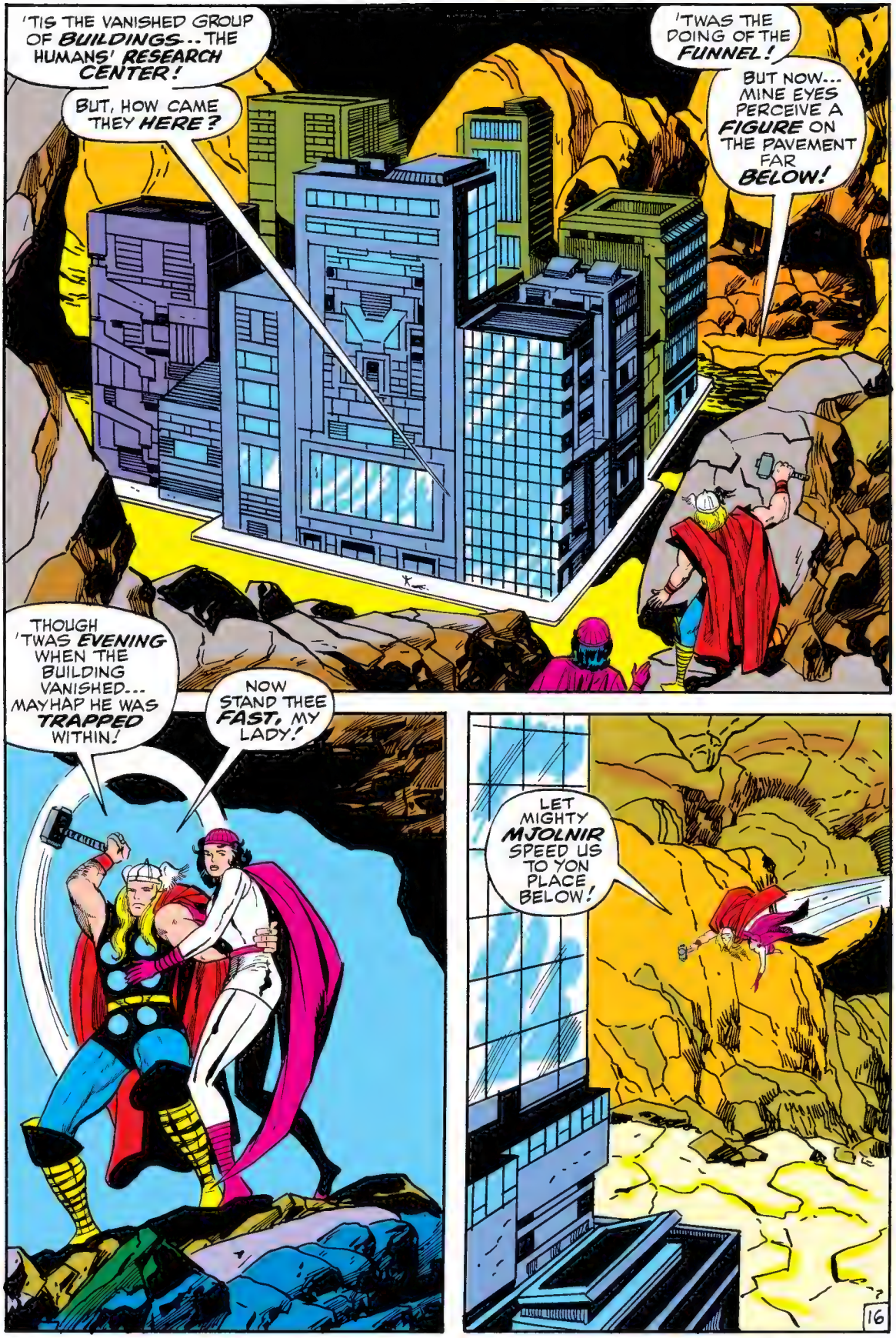
MY WEAPON... SHATTERED... BY THE SHOCK WAVE!!
WHAT MANNER OF HUMAN ARE YOU??
ONE SUCH AS THOU HAST NEVER KNOWN!
WRONG!! THERE IS ANOTHER...
BUT, YOU SOON WILL LEARN... FOR YOURSELF!
HIS DEPARTURE IS CLOAKED WITH WORDS OF MYSTERY!
BUT THOR SHALL WORRY NOT!
MY THOUGHTS NOW TURN TO THE BEAUTEOUS SIF!
FAIR ONE!! THOU ART FREE!
AY, MY PRINCE!
THY HAMMER-BLOW SHATTERED MORE THAN WEAPON!
IT CAUSED THE SPHERE TO SHUDDER...THUS RELEASING THY GRATEFUL LADY!
I KNOW NOT WHERE WE BE, BELOVED...
BUT THOU ART SAFE, SO ALL IS WELL...
THE FEARSOME FUNNEL... IN WHICH WE HAD BEEN SEIZED...
IS BUT AN ENTRANCE... TO ANOTHER WORLD!
THEN LET OUR EYES BEHOLD... WHAT LAND IT BE...!
13.


'TIS A BLEAK AND BARREN WORLD OF WOE... CONTAINING MAMMOTH CAVERNS...
WHEREIN COUNTLESS WEAPONS LIE A' ROTTING... AS THOUGH TO MOCK THEIR LONG-DEAD MAKERS!
NAUGHT BUT WAR... MOST CATACLYSMIC...
COULDST HAVE WROUGHT SUCH CARNAGE ABSOLUTE!!


THEN, AFTER SILENTLY TRUDGING THRU THE GRIM DEBRIS---
METHINKS WE STAND AMONGST THE REMNANTS OF WHAT HAD BEEN AN EARTH MUSEUM!
NUCLEAR SOLDIER
ATOMIC WAR II

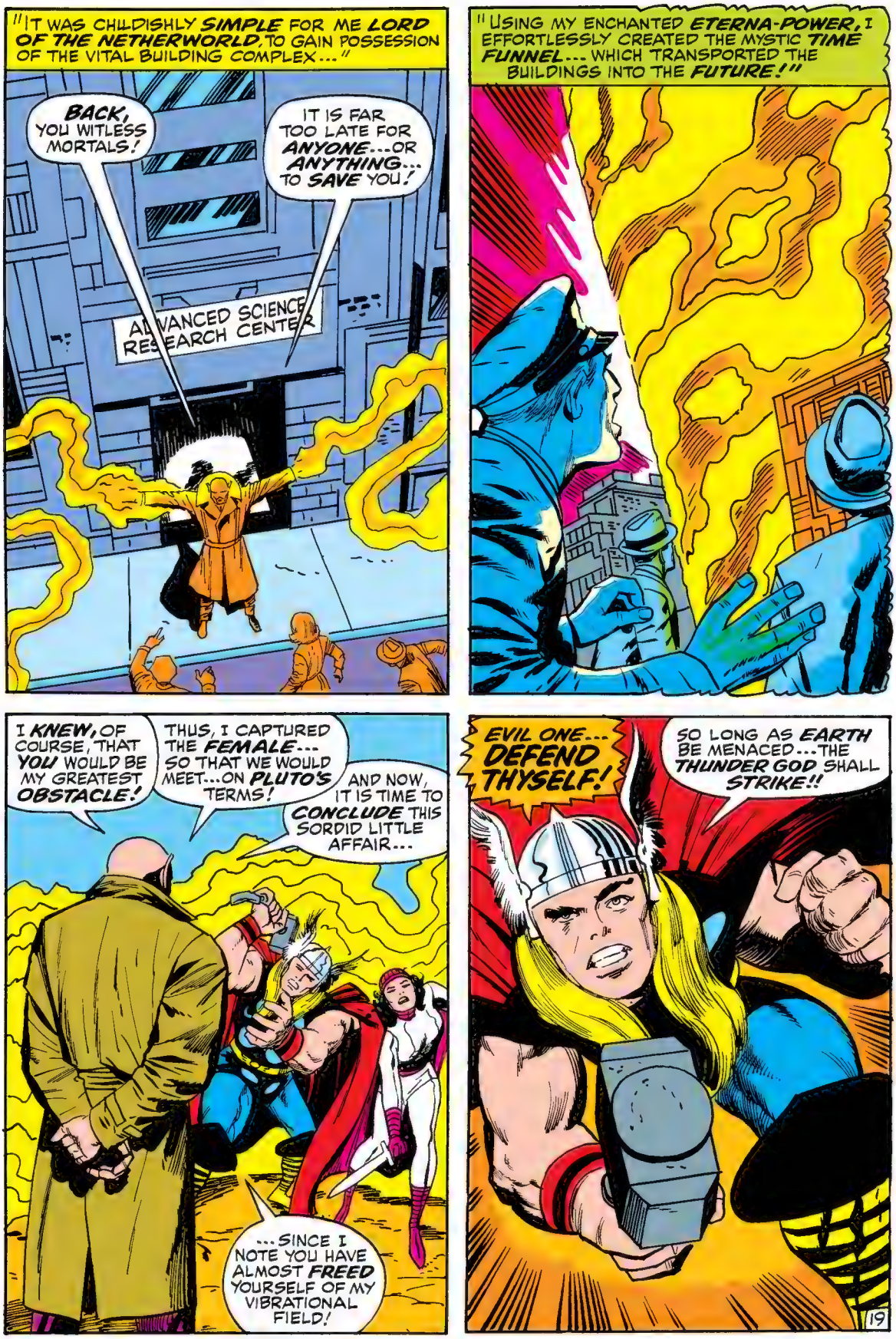

COMMITTEE OF SCIENTISTS TO STOP THE NUCLEAR BOMBING.
WARNING!! RADIATION CAN ALTER THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!
HOMO SAPIENS
SEMI-MUTATE
FULL MUTATE
SEE? THAT ANCIENT POSTER... UPON YON WALL!
AYE! THEN MY WORST FEARS ARE REALIZED!

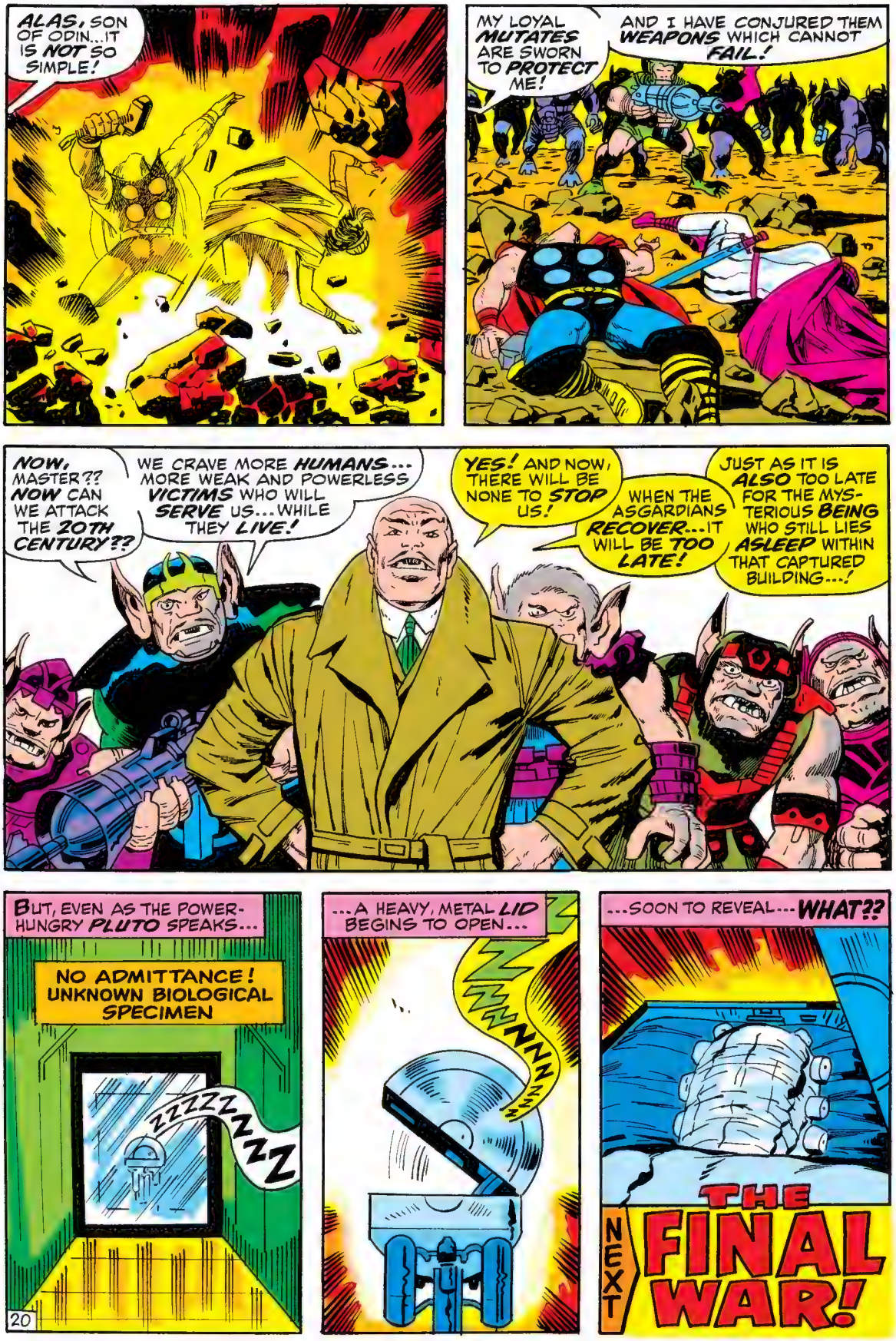
'TIS NOT ANOTHER WORLD IN WHICH WE BE---
'TIS BUT ANOTHER TIME!!
THOU...AND I, MY LADY--- HAVE BEEN MYSTICALLY TRANSPORTED...
NOW STAND WE--- IN THE FUTURE!
AND YONDER, THINK I, WE SHALL FIND THE ANSWER..!


'TIS THE VANISHED GROUP OF BUILDINGS--THE HUMANS' RESEARCH CENTER!
BUT, HOW CAME THEY HERE?
'TWAS THE DOING OF THE FUNNEL!
BUT NOW... MINE EYES PERCEIVE A FIGURE ON THE PAVEMENT FAR BELOW!
THOUGH 'TWAS EVENING WHEN THE BUILDING VANISHED... MAYHAP HE WAS TRAPPED WITHIN!
NOW STAND THEE FAST, MY LADY!
LET MIGHTY MJOLNIR SPEED US TO YON PLACE BELOW!
16

I LIKETH NOT HIS HAUGHTY STANCE... HIS STRANGELY EVIL AIR!
'TWOULD SEEM HE DID EXPECT OUR COMING!
SO! YOU BLUNDERED INTO MY TIME FUNNEL... JUST AS I KNEW YOU WOULD!
ONCE I HAD CAPTURED THE UNSUSPECTING SIF... ALL I HAD TO DO WAS WAIT... WAIT FOR THOR TO STEP INTO MY TRAP!
THY VOICE... COLD AND MERCILESS AS THE GLACIAL ICE!
THOU ART NO STRANGER TO THE GOD OF THUNDER!
I AM PLUTO... LORD OF THE NETHERWORLD!
AND YOU... WITH ALL WHO DWELL ABOVE...ARE TRULY DOOMED!
WE HAVE MET BEFORE...
FOUGHT BEFORE...
AND THOR HATH WON BEFORE!
SO SHALL I DO AGAIN!
BUT THIS TIME... NOT ALONE!
17

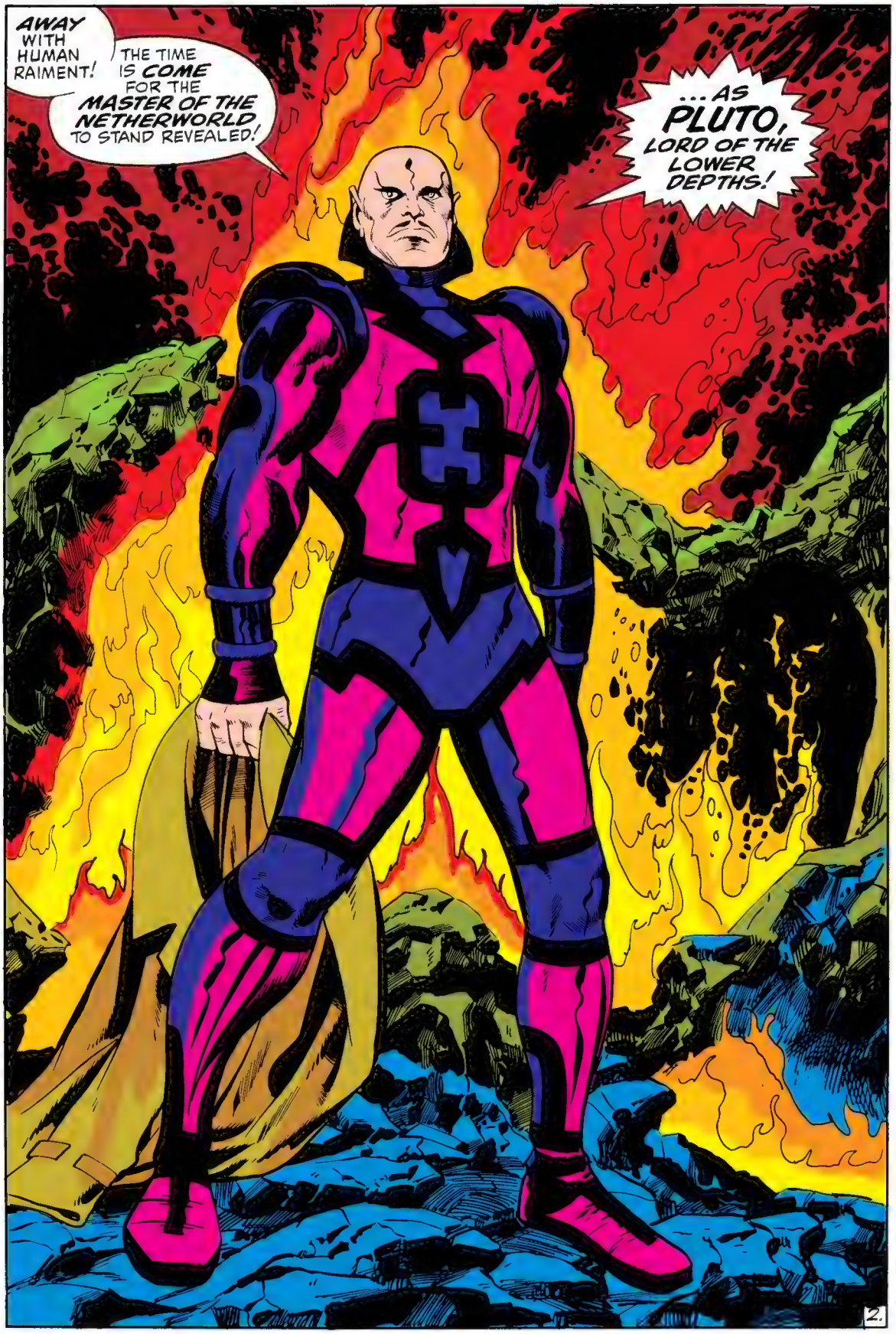
HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOT??
I AM NO GODLING... NO FLEDGLING PRINCE!
NONE BUT ODIN CAN BE MY EQUAL!
AND EVEN HIM SHALL I DESTROY!
WITH BUT A GESTURE HE SLOWS OUR BODILY VIBRATIONS!
'TIS AS THOUGH OUR LIMBS CAN SCARCELY MOVE!
EVER SINCE OUR LAST ENCOUNTER... I HAVE SPENT EVERY WAKING MOMENT IN THE LOWER DEPTHS PLANNING... PLOTTING... SCHEMING... DREAMING OF MY RETURN TO THE SURFACE WORLD...
AND THEN, AT LAST... I FOUND THE WAY!
THERE... WITHIN MY GREAT ETERNA-SCREEN, WHICH SPANS BOTH TIME AND SPACE...
I SAW THE WARLIKE MUTATES HUMBLING THE REMNANTS OF A WEARY HUMAN RACE!
THEY SHALL BE THE PERFECT ALLIES FOR A CONQUERING PLUTO!
THEY SHALL SERVE ME ABOVE ... AS MY DEMONS DO... BELOW!
"MY FIRST ACT WAS TO RETURN TO EARTH..."
"--TO RID MYSELF OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT AID 20TH CENTURY MANKIND TO RESIST ME!"
I MUST FIND THE RESEARCH CENTER...
WHERE THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC SECRETS ARE KEPT!
18


"IT WAS CHILDISHLY SIMPLE FOR ME LORD OF THE NETHERWORLD, TO GAIN POSSESSION OF THE VITAL BUILDING COMPLEX..."
BACK, YOU WITLESS MORTALS!
IT IS FAR TOO LATE FOR ANYONE...OR ANYTHING... TO SAVE YOU!
ADVANCED SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER
"USING MY ENCHANTED ETERNA-POWER, I EFFORTLESSLY CREATED THE MYSTIC TIME FUNNEL... WHICH TRANSPORTED THE BUILDINGS INTO THE FUTURE!"
I KNEW, OF COURSE, THAT YOU WOULD BE MY GREATEST OBSTACLE!
THUS, I CAPTURED THE FEMALE... SO THAT WE WOULD MEET...ON PLUTO'S TERMS!
AND NOW, IT IS TIME TO CONCLUDE THIS SORDID LITTLE AFFAIR...
...SINCE I NOTE YOU HAVE ALMOST FREED YOURSELF OF MY VIBRATIONAL FIELD!
EVIL ONE... DEFEND THYSELF!
SO LONG AS EARTH BE MENACED...THE THUNDER GOD SHALL STRIKE!!
19


ALAS, SON OF ODIN...IT IS NOT SO SIMPLE!
MY LOYAL MUTATES ARE SWORN TO PROTECT ME!
AND I HAVE CONJURED THEM WEAPONS WHICH CANNOT FAIL!
NOW, MASTER?? NOW CAN WE ATTACK THE 20TH CENTURY??
WE CRAVE MORE HUMANS... MORE WEAK AND POWERLESS VICTIMS WHO WILL SERVE US...WHILE THEY LIVE!
YES! AND NOW, THERE WILL BE NONE TO STOP US!
WHEN THE ASGARDIANS RECOVER...IT WILL BE TOO LATE!
JUST AS IT IS ALSO TOO LATE FOR THE MYSTERIOUS BEING WHO STILL LIES ASLEEP WITHIN THAT CAPTURED BUILDING...!
BUT, EVEN AS THE POWER-HUNGRY PLUTO SPEAKS...
NO ADMITTANCE! UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL SPECIMEN
ZZZZZZZZZ
...A HEAVY, METAL LID BEGINS TO OPEN...
ZZZZZZZZZ
...SOON TO REVEAL...WHAT??
NEXT
THE FINAL WAR!
20

THOR
12¢ IND
164 MAY
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
LEST MANKIND FALL!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
LEST MANKIND FALL!
THOR IS POWERLESS TO STOP ME NOW!
THUS, NOTHING CAN SAVE THE HUMAN RACE!
MY LORD! THE FATE OF EARTH IS IN THY HANDS!
THOU MUST NOT FALTER!
STORY and ART by STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
EMBELLISHMENT: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN


AWAY WITH HUMAN RAIMENT!
THE TIME IS COME FOR THE MASTER OF THE NETHERWORLD TO STAND REVEALED!
... AS PLUTO, LORD OF THE LOWER DEPTHS!

YOU SHALL BOTH REMAIN HERE... PRISONERS OF MY TIME FUNNEL!
WHILE I RETURN TO 20TH CENTURY EARTH, WHICH LIES RIPE FOR CONQUEST!
THOR SAYS THEE NAY!
WHILST THE THUNDER GOD LIVES... MORTALS NE'ER SHALL BOW TO SUCH AS THEE!
AND SO SAYS SIF!
WOMAN-CREATURE... BE SILENT! IT IS YOU WHO WILL GIVE THE MASTER HIS VICTORY!
THE SON OF ODIN WILL NOT DARE DEFY PLUTO... WHILE YOU ARE IN OUR GUNSIGHTS!
STAY THY HAND, BESTIAL ONE!
MY LADY MUST BE SPARED!
BUT, BEFORE TAKING DOMINION OVER ALL OF EARTH...
I MUST DESTROY HIM WHO SLEEPS WITHIN YON BUILDING!
FOR I KNOW NOT THE MEASURE OF HIS NAMELESS POWER!
3.

AYE, TRUE BELIEVER, AS WE DID SEE LAST ISSUE, A STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS ENTITY LIES WITHIN THE CAPTIVE ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER... BUT, WE ARE NOT YET DESTINED TO LEARN ITS SECRET!
INSTEAD... IT IS NOW DECREED THAT WE HIE OURSELVES THITHER TO FABLED ASGARD, WHERE MOMENTOUS EVENTS NOW LIE A'BORNING...

FOR, 'TIS HERE THAT WE FIND THE NOBLE BALDER, VAINLY SEEKING TO OUT-RACE A HAUNTING MEMORY...
AM I NE'ER TO ESCAPE THE SPELL OF ENCHANTED KARNILLA??
AM I NE'ER TO DRIVE HER TAUNTING VISAGE FROM MY HEART??

THOUGH THOU HAST SPURNED MY KISS, ASGARDIAN... NEVER SHALT THOU BE FREE OF KARNILLA'S MEMORY!
SUCH IS THE PRICE THOU MUST PAY... SUCH IS THE WILL OF THE QUEEN OF THE NORNS!

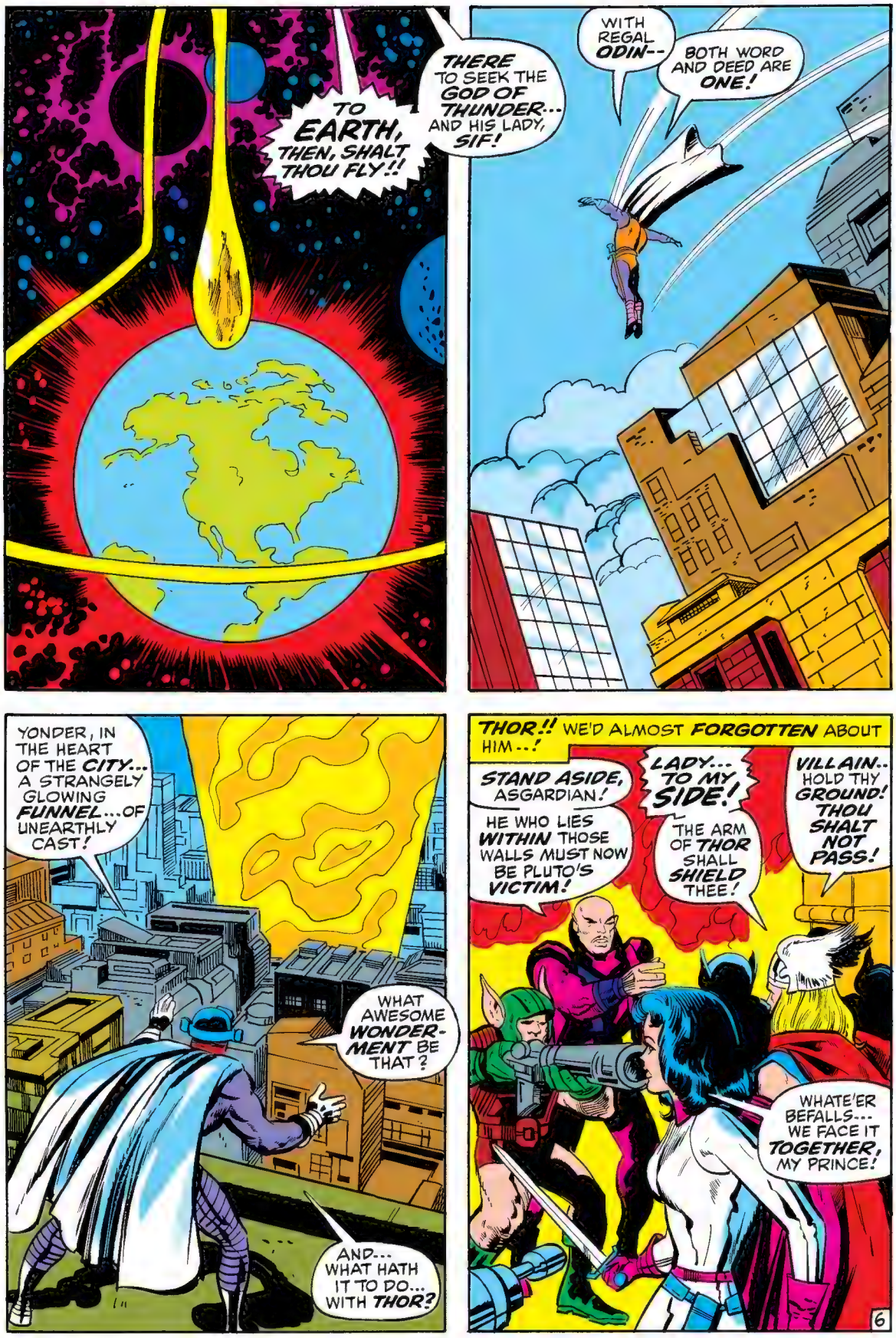
BUT, RENOUNCE THINE OATH TO ODIN... AND MY LOVE SHALL MAKE THEE FREE!
NEVER!! THOUGH THOU ART FAIREST OF THE FAIR, BALDER IS WARRIOR BORN!
4.

BEHOLD... THE SOVEREIGN SUPREME OF ALL HE SURVEYS!
ALAS, 'TIS NOT SO, MOST LOYAL ONE!
HE HATH THE POWER TO GRANT BALDER PEACE!

SIRE! THY ROYAL EARS DIDST HEAR MY LAMENT?!!
NOT A CRICKET CHIRPS... NOT A LEAF DOTH TREMBLE... SAVE THE ALL-FATHER HEARS!
E'EN WHILST STUDYING THE CHRONICLE OF HIM WHO IS CALLED GALACTUS, THY LIEGE IS SADDENED... FOR ODIN CAN HELP THEE NOT!

THOUGH MY POWER DOTH SURPASS ALL COMPREHENSION...
NOT EVEN I CAN ALTER THE EMOTION KNOWN AS LOVE!
THAT WHICH LIES WITHIN THE HEART OF MAN AND GOD...IS ETERNALLY INVIOLATE!

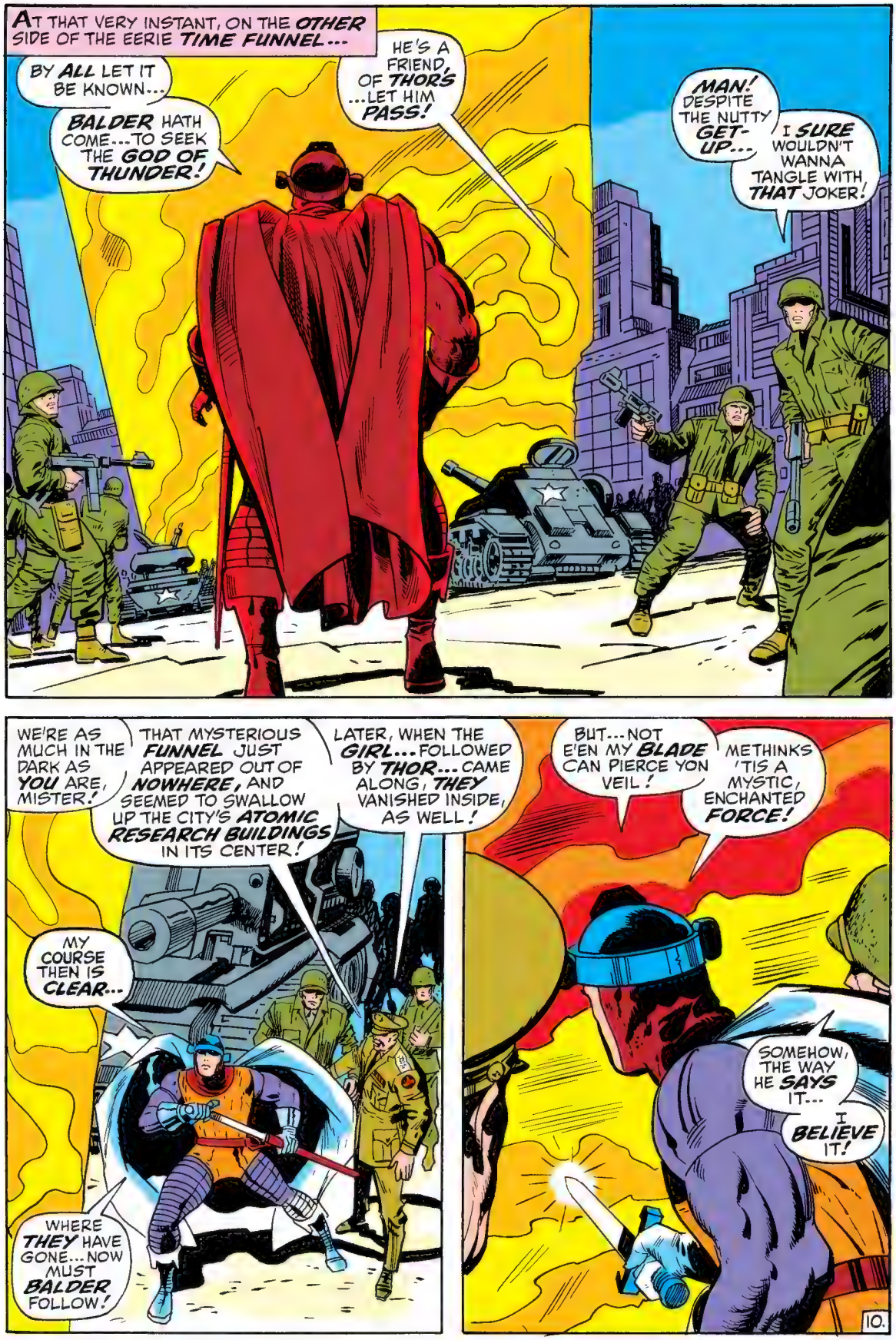
BUT, I CAN OFFER THEE ESCAPE ...AND SO I SHALL!


TO EARTH, THEN, SHALT THOU FLY!!
THERE TO SEEK THE GOD OF THUNDER... AND HIS LADY, SIF!
WITH REGAL ODIN--
BOTH WORD AND DEED ARE ONE!
YONDER, IN THE HEART OF THE CITY... A STRANGELY GLOWING FUNNEL... OF UNEARTHLY CAST!
WHAT AWESOME WONDER-MENT BE THAT?
AND... WHAT HATH IT TO DO... WITH THOR?
THOR!! WE'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM--!
STAND ASIDE, ASGARDIAN!
HE WHO LIES WITHIN THOSE WALLS MUST NOW BE PLUTO'S VICTIM!
LADY... TO MY SIDE!
THE ARM OF THOR SHALL SHIELD THEE!
VILLAIN.. HOLD THY GROUND! THOU SHALT NOT PASS!
WHATE'ER BEFALLS--- WE FACE IT TOGETHER, MY PRINCE!
6

THE SON OF ODIN DOTH NOT TIMOROUSLY AWAIT ATTACK!
WHILST BLOOD CAN BOIL... WHILST HEART CAN POUND... WHILST ARM CAN STRIKE...
...SO STRIKETH THOR!!
FOR ASGARD!
THOU DIDST LEVEL A DOZEN, MY LORD... WITH BUT ONE BLOW!
BUT THEIR NUMBERS SEEM TRULY ENDLESS!
7.

DO WHAT THOU CANST, FAIR SIF...
BUT PLUTO MUST BE MINE!
HAVE A CARE, MY PRINCE!
HE DOTH ATTACK THEE... FROM THY SIDE!
AND THEE, MY LADY...
LOOK TO THY BLADE, THAT NO HARM MAY COME TO THEE!
IN TRUTH, 'TIS TOO UNEVEN A BATTLE!
NE'ER COULDST PRIMITIVE ARMS OF SO SAVAGE A HORDE STAND UP TO THE STING OF ASGARDIAN STEEL!
8.

THE STRENGTH OF YOUR LIMBS IS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE...
BUT PLUTO HAS POWERS TO MATCH THOSE OF ODIN HIMSELF!
THY WORDS BLASPHEME!
NONE IS THE EQUAL OF HIM WHO IS ALL-FATHER!
AND MIGHTY MJOLNIR HATH POWERS TO CHALLENGE THINE OWN!
...POWERS ENOW TO TRANSPORT US ALL BACK FROM WHENCE WE CAME!
YOU WOULD RETURN US TO THE 20TH CENTURY??
WITLESS ONE ... YOU WILL FARE NO BETTER AGAINST ME THERE!
MAKE HASTE, BELOVED!!
OUR FOES INCREASE IN DEADLY NUMBER!
9.


AT THAT VERY INSTANT, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE EERIE TIME FUNNEL...
BY ALL LET IT BE KNOWN...
BALDER HATH COME...TO SEEK THE GOD OF THUNDER!
HE'S A FRIEND OF THOR'S ...LET HIM PASS!
MAN! DESPITE THE NUTTY GET-UP...
I SURE WOULDN'T WANNA TANGLE WITH THAT JOKER!
WE'RE AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS YOU ARE, MISTER!
THAT MYSTERIOUS FUNNEL JUST APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE, AND SEEMED TO SWALLOW UP THE CITY'S ATOMIC RESEARCH BUILDINGS IN ITS CENTER!
LATER, WHEN THE GIRL... FOLLOWED BY THOR... CAME ALONG, THEY VANISHED INSIDE, AS WELL!
MY COURSE THEN IS CLEAR...
WHERE THEY HAVE GONE...NOW MUST BALDER FOLLOW!
BUT...NOT E'EN MY BLADE CAN PIERCE YON VEIL!
METHINKS 'TIS A MYSTIC, ENCHANTED FORCE!
SOMEHOW, THE WAY HE SAYS IT...
I BELIEVE IT!
10.

LET ALL STAND BACK!
SOMETHING DOTH MOVE WITHIN YON FUNNEL!
THE EYES AND EARS OF BALDER NOW BEAR WITNESS...
THE AWESOME CLANG OF MIGHTY MJOLNIR DRAWS CLOSER... CLOSER...!

BEFORE THE WARRIOR'S CRY CAN FADE...A FANTASTIC FLASH ILLUMES THE CITY...
...AND, NO SOONER DOES THE EERIE LUMINESCENCE SILENTLY DISSOLVE, WHEN...
THE ATOMIC RESEARCH BUILDINGS...
THEY'RE BACK!
BE SILENT, ALL!
HEED THOU THE FOOT-STEPS THRU THE MIST..!
MY LORD...
WE HAVE RETURNED!
BALDER!! THOU ART SORELY NEEDED, FRIEND!
THE FUNNEL WAS A MYSTIC GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE...
THRU WHICH PLUTO HATH RECRUITED SAVAGE MUTATES...TO ATTACK THE PRESENT!
WITH POWER SUCH AS HIS...MERE HUMANS CANNOT COPE...
BUT WE ARE MORE THAN HUMAN...
--AND WE SHALL FIGHT FOR EARTH!
12

LOOK!! COMING THRU THE VAPORS..!
'TIS AS I FEARED!
'TIS PLUTO!
GENERAL... WHO... WHAT... ARE THOSE CHARACTERS WITH HIM??
THEY MUST BE THE MUTATES THAT SIF REFERRED TO!
BUT, THERE'S ONLY A HAND-FUL!
WHAT CAN THEY DO... AGAINST THE FORCES OF EARTH?
LET DOOMED HUMANITY JUDGE US NOT BY OUR NUMBERS!
AIDED BY THE PEERLESS POWER OF PLUTO, MY SAVAGE SLAVES CAN CONQUER A GALAXY!
HEAR ME, MY MUTATES... THIS IS THE WORLD YOU WERE PROMISED!
AND NOW, IT IS YOURS TO TAKE!
HE MEANS IT! THEY'RE ATTACKING!
FIRE!
IT'S NO GOOD!
HE'S SET UP SOME SORT OF BARRIER!
OUR SHELLS CAN'T PENETRATE!
13

NOW YOU SEE WHY I CAN CONQUER A WORLD... WITH BUT A HANDFUL!
NOTHING CAN SHATTER THE BARRIER OF PLUTO!
NOTHING... SAVE THE MIGHT OF ASGARD!
WHAT PLUTO CAN DO...
THOR CAN UNDO!
LET THE BARRIER CRUMBLE!
AND NOW... INTO THE FRAYYYYYYYYYY
14

AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT (ACCORDING TO OUR CELESTIAL STOPWATCH), ON FABLED MT. OLYMPUS, A FATEFUL MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO THE AWESOME, ETERNAL ZEUS...
I BRING GRAVE TIDINGS, SIRE!
THY BANISHED BROTHER HATH SECRETLY DEPARTED FROM HIS STYGIAN REALM...
NOW THREATENS HE THE PLANET EARTH!
PLUTO... MENACING THE HUMAN RACE?!!
HOW SAY THEE, GOOD MY LORD?
THOU KNOWEST WELL, ATHENA... NOT EVEN PLUTO MAY DEFY THE WILL OF ZEUS!
NOW SUMMON I THE PRIMORDIAL FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE!
THE TIME IS COME... TO ACT!
15.

AND, SPEAKING OF ACTION... BACK ON OUR LITTLE FUN PLANET WE FIND MAN AGAINST MUTATE, HELPING TO LIVEN UP AN OTHERWISE LACKLUSTER DAY...
AND NOW THAT YOU GET THE IDEA, ONWARD...

AS THOR AND PLUTO PREPARE FOR THE FINAL CONFRONTATION---
THE MUTATES PROVE THAT POWER CANNOT BE JUDGED BY AN ARMY'S SIZE---

ARMED WITH WEAPONS SUCH AS MEN HAVE NEVER KNOWN, THEY PLAN TO LEVEL AN ENTIRE CONTINENT---

BUT, MORTAL THOUGH IT IS... HUMANITY IS NOT DEFENSELESS..!

...NOR DOES IT FIGHT ALONE..!
TO THOR'S SIDE, BRAVE BALDER!
AYE... AND AYE AGAIN, MY LADY!
NONE WHO LIVE SHALL BAR THE WAY!

ODIN BE PRAISED!
'TWAS HE THAT SENT ME HITHER!
I PRAY HIS DEED BE NOT TOO LATE!
BEHOLD, THUNDER-GOD... THIS IS WHY THE VICTORY MUST BE MINE!
NONE MAY HARM ME WHEN I AM SHEATHED IN STYGIAN FLAME!
BUT... AS YOU SHALL SHORTLY SEE... PLUTO STILL MAY STRIKE AT WILL!
NOT WHILST THOR MAY CALL UPON...
THE POWER OF THE STORM!
18

A TORRENT OF RAIN---DISPELLING MY FLAMING SHIELD!
BUT, 'TWILL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT!
THOUGH PLUTO HAS LOST A MERE DEFENSE---MY POWER IS GREAT AS EVER!
...WHILE YOU STILL BEAR THE BURDEN OF CONSCIENCE ...AND YOUTH!
THOUGH A HUNDRED BURDENS BE MY LOT...
STILL SHALL ASGARD OVERCOME!
ASGARD?? 'TIS ODIN WHO IS ASGARD! YOU ARE BUT A FLEDGLING!
BUT, KNOW YOU, WARRIOR... I AM SOVEREIGN SUPREME!
MY REALM IS MINE!! THERE IS NO ODIN! THERE IS NONE BUT... PLUTO!
I AM THE POWER... AND YOU... THE PAWN!
NOW... WITH A SINGLE STYGIAN GESTURE...
I SHALL RID MYSELF OF YOUR INTERFERENCE---FOREVER!
FIRST, THOU SHALT ANSWER TO ME!
ZEUS!
NOT EVEN PLUTO MAY VIOLATE THE COVENANT ETERNAL!
OLYMPUS BE MINE--- THE NETHERWORLD THINE!
SO IT IS WRITTEN... SO MUST IT BE!
19

BACK THEN GOEST THOU... AND THY SAVAGE SERVITORS AS WELL!
LET ALL BE AS IT WAS... SO SAYETH ZEUS!!
IT IS ENDED! THEY ARE GONE!
THE AWESOME ZEUS! METHINKS HE HATH TRULY SERVED US WELL!
I PRAY WE NE'ER SHALL SEE THE DAY... WHEN WE MUST STAND AGAINST HIM!
THEY... ALL VANISHED... AS SUDDENLY AS THEY FIRST APPEARED!
WHAT HAPPENED THERE ..AT THE VERY END? WHAT WAS THAT SUDDEN BURST OF LIGHT?
VERILY, FOR ALL MANKIND... 'TWAS A NEW DAY'S DAWNING!
BELOVED! WHAT OF THE BEING WITHIN YON EDIFICE?
DID NOT PLUTO SAY ...HE KNEW NOT THE MEASURE OF HIS NAMELESS POWER!
EVEN AS SIF'S LOVELY LIPS FINISH FRAMING HER FATEFUL WORDS... WITHIN THE SILENT BUILDING, A METAL CASK SLOWLY OPENS...
NO ADMITTANCE! UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL SPECIMEN
...AS THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE WITHIN BEGINS TO BREATHE...
...SLOWLY AT FIRST... BUT THEN FASTER... FASTER... FASTER..
...UNTIL A GRASPING, GROPING HAND BREAKS THRU THE CRUMBLING SHEATH ...TO REVEAL...
NEXT
THE BEING WITHIN!

THOR
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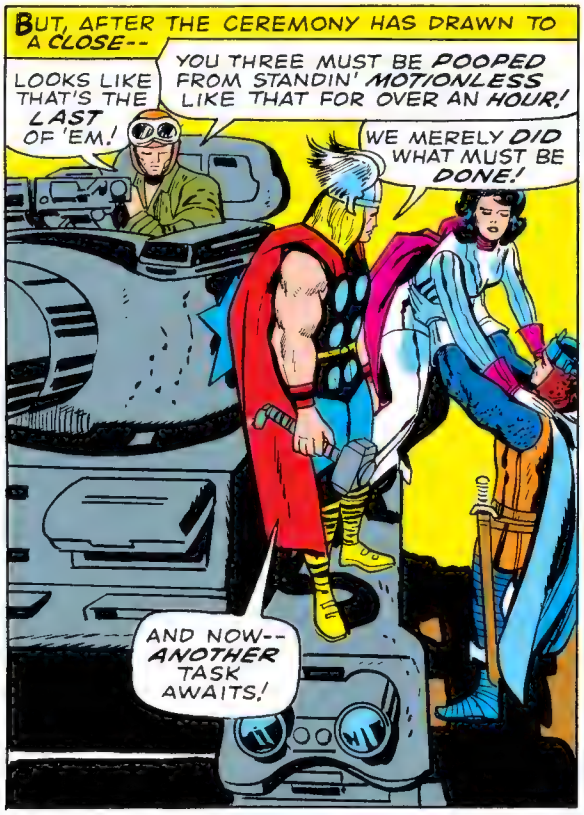
THE MIGHTY
THOR
TM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
HIM!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
"HIM!"
A SAGA OF STRANGE, UNENDING WONDER!
A BATTLE HAS ENDED! THE LEGIONS OF PLUTO HAVE BEEN PUT TO ROUT! AND NOW, TO THE VICTORS BELONGS THEIR MOMENT OF TRIUMPH!
PRODUCED IN A PAROXYSM OF PASSION BY--
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
VINCE COLLETTA, EMBELLISHMENT
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERING

WHILE THE DRUMS BEAT AND THE TRUMPETS BLARE, SEEMINGLY ENDLESS RANKS OF MARCHING TROOPS PASS IN REVIEW...TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SAVED A PLANET!


BUT, AFTER THE CEREMONY HAS DRAWN TO A CLOSE--
LOOKS LIKE THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM!
YOU THREE MUST BE POOPED FROM STANDIN' MOTIONLESS LIKE THAT FOR OVER AN HOUR!
WE MERELY DID WHAT MUST BE DONE!
AND NOW-- ANOTHER TASK AWAITS!

WITHIN YONDER BUILDING IS AN UNKNOWN BEING--
ONE WHOSE POWERS ARE SO UNCANNY-- THAT PLUTO HIMSELF DIDST FEAR HIM!
YOU MEAN THERE'S SOMEONE STILL INSIDE THE CITY'S ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER?!?
SOMEONE, OR MAYHAP-- SOME THING!
2

NOW, BY THY LEAVE--WE SHALL HIE OURSELVES THENCE--
TO LEARN WHAT DREAD SECRET DOTH LIE WITHIN!
YOU'RE ALL FREE AGENTS! I HAVEN'T THE AUTHORITY TO PREVENT YOU FROM RISKING YOUR NECKS!
BUT, I'LL KEEP MY TROOPS ALERTED--IN CASE YOU NEED US!
GOOD LUCK, ASGARDIANS--OR WHATEVER IT IS YOU CALL YOURSELVES!
BUT REMEMBER, MISTER--WHATEVER YOU MAY FIND IN THERE IS GOVERNMENT PROPERTY--
SO BE CAREFUL NOT TO DAMAGE IT!
IF IT BE AS DANGEROUS AS I FEAR--
MAY ODIN GRANT ME THE POWER--TO CAUSE IT DAMAGE!
ADVANCED SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER
AND NOW--THE TIME FOR TALK IS TRULY PAST!
THEN LET US AWAY, MOST NOBLE LORD!
THOR! BEFORE YOU GO INSIDE--LEVEL WITH ME!
'TIS BEST THAT I DO NOT TELL THEE!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A FUSS?
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND --BEHIND THOSE WALLS?
FOR THOU ART MERELY MORTAL!
--BUT, THE ONE I SEEK--IS NOT!
SECONDS LATER, THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER IS FIRST TO ENTER THE SEEMINGLY-DESERTED STRUCTURE--
BEHIND ME--THE FOOTSTEPS OF BALDER--AND MY LADY SIF!
WHILST AHEAD OF US LIES--WHAT??
3

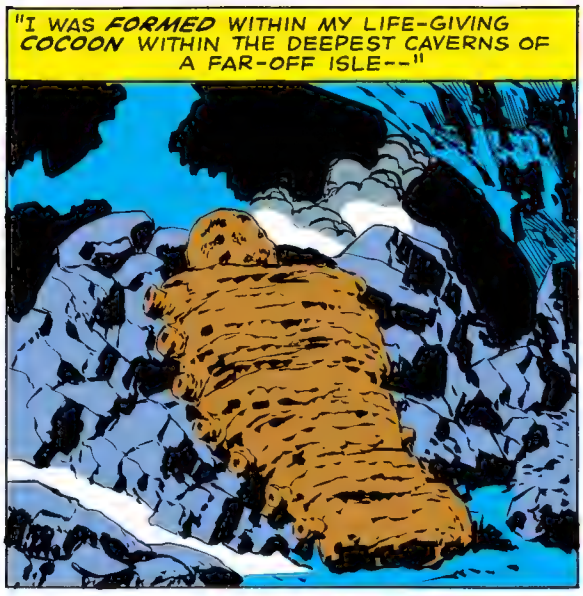
NOW--WHILE THERE STILL IS TIME-- LET US LEAVE OUR HEROES FOR A MOMENT--AND ENTER THE ENCHANTED DOMAIN OF KARNILLA, QUEEN OF THE NORNS--!
LET HAAG, THE SEERESS, COME FORTH!
KARNILLA HATH USE OF HER MYSTIC BEWITCHMENT!
I HAVE HEARD THY SUMMONS--
AND I AM HERE, MY QUEEN!
I HAVE OFFERED MY HEART TO THE ONE CALLED BALDER--
AND I HAVE BEEN IGNOBLY SPURNED!!
BUT NONE MAY SPURN THE MISTRESS OF THE NORN!
THOU HAST THE ENCHANTED POWER TO EXACT VENGEANCE MOST AWESOME, MY QUEEN!
SEERESS, I SAY THEE NAY!
THE MEDDLING ODIN HATH PLACED HIS WARRIOR BEYOND MY DEADLY REACH!
AND SO I TURN TO THEE, MY CACKLING ONE!
LET US BEGIN! LET US BEGIN!
THE HANDS OF HAAG DO FAIRLY TREMBLE WITH DESIRE--
FOR THEY SHALL STRIKE ACCURSED ASGARD ONCE AGAIN!
4

TO THE SPACE POOL-- THE SPACE POOL!
'TIS THERE THAT WE SHALL FIND HIM!
'TIS THERE THAT I SHALL SEIZE HIM FOR THEE --AND WITH THIS VERY HAND!
NONE CAN ESCAPE THE HOARY HAND OF HAAG!
NOW BE THOU SILENT-- WHILST I CONJURE THE IMAGE OF HIM WHOM WE SEEK--!
'TIS BALDER!!
NOW SHALL I SNATCH HIM FROM THE PLACE CALLED EARTH!
HOLD, ANCIENT CRONE!
ONCE IN VIEW, HE CAN NE'ER ESCAPE!
THUS, LET US WAIT-- I WOULDST BEHOLD WHAT NEXT TRANS-PIRES--
AND, A THOUSAND, THOUSAND WORLDS AWAY--
'TIS MOST PASSING STRANGE--
MAN CREATES WONDERS IN ENDLESS PROFUSION--
THINK NOT UPON IT, BRAVE BALDER!
BUT, IN THE SPAN OF A LIFETIME-- CANNOT FIND PEACE!
FOR THERE BE GREAT DANGER AHEAD!
AND YET, ALL IS MOST QUIET! SIF SEES NO MENACE!
5

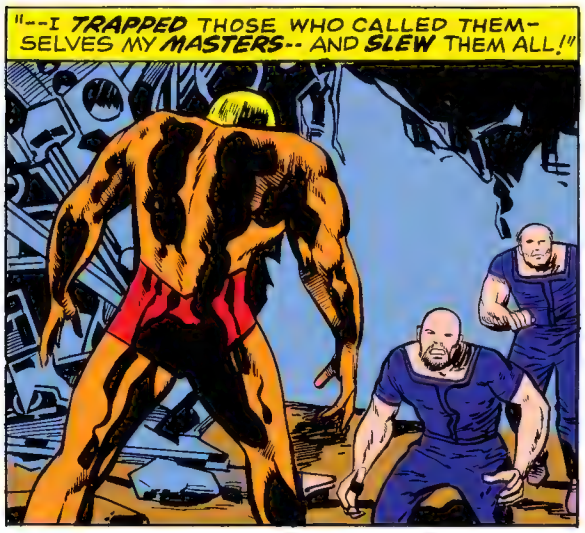
BUT WAIT!! NOW--NOW DO I SENSE A MADDENING AURA OF ALIEN POWER!!
MINE EARS PERCEIVE A SUBTLE SOUND!
A DISTANT HUM--GROWING LOUDER-- DEEPER-- EVER STRONGER--
METHINKS IT DOTH COME FROM YON CHAMBER AHEAD!
BUT HOLD!! WHAT DAZZLING RADIANCE DOTH NOW ENGULF US ALL??
BAKOOM
THE BUILDING ENTIRE DOTH TREMBLE AND SHAKE!!
LET ALL STAND FAST!
I SAY STRANGE FORCES BE HERE AT WORK!
THERE BE POWER UNLEASHED-- SUCH AS MORTALS HAVE NEVER KNOWN!
6

AND, AT THE END OF THE LONG, GLOWING HALLWAY--
NO ADMITTANCE! UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL SPECIMEN
--A FIGURE RISES--AS THOUGH IN ANSWER TO SOME INNER URGING--AS THOUGH HIS TIME HAS FINALLY COME!
A FIGURE WHO BEGINS TO SILENTLY EMERGE--AS FROM A MONSTROUS, GREY COCOON--
I AM BORN ONCE MORE!
BUT, I SENSE THAT IT IS THE PLANET EARTH UPON WHICH I STAND!
WHAT DIABOLICAL DESTINY HAS BROUGHT ME BACK TO THE WORLD I FLED?
BEHOLD!! A FIGURE DOTH SLOWLY APPROACH!
THEN, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE! WE HAVE FOUND THE ONE WE SEEK!
KNOW THOU THAT I BE THOR!
AND NOW --WHAT SAYEST THEE?
7

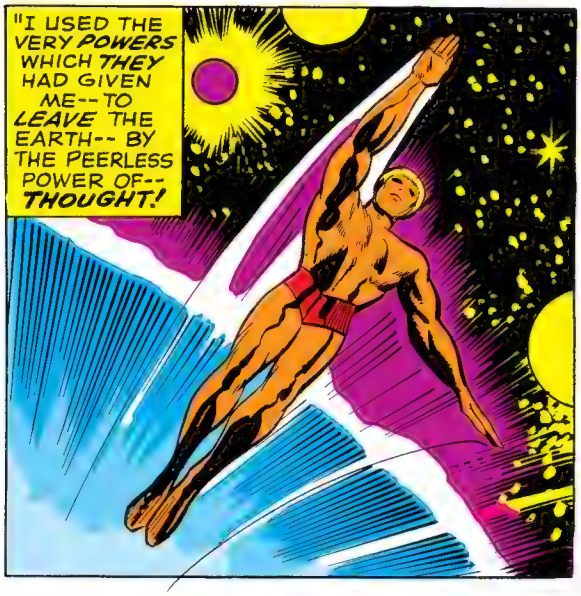
I AM LESS THAN HUMAN-- AND FAR, FAR MORE THAN MAN!!
I WAS CREATED BY THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO FATHER A NEW, ALL-POWERFUL RACE--
BUT, THEY WERE EVIL-- AND I DESTROYED THEM!*
NOW, ONLY I REMAIN-- I, WHO HAVE NO NAME--
I, WHO MUST BE KNOWN ONLY AS-- HIM!
*REMEMBER FANTASTIC FOUR 66 AND 67? THAT'S WHERE IT HAPPENED, BELIEVER! --SAGATIOUS STAN.


"I WAS FORMED WITHIN MY LIFE-GIVING COCOON WITHIN THE DEEPEST CAVERNS OF A FAR-OFF ISLE--"

"THOSE WHO CREATED ME, DID SO FOR PURPOSES OF EVIL, WITHIN THEIR HIDDEN CITADEL OF SCIENCE--!"
"--AND THAT I KNEW! THUS, WHEN FINALLY I AWOKE--"

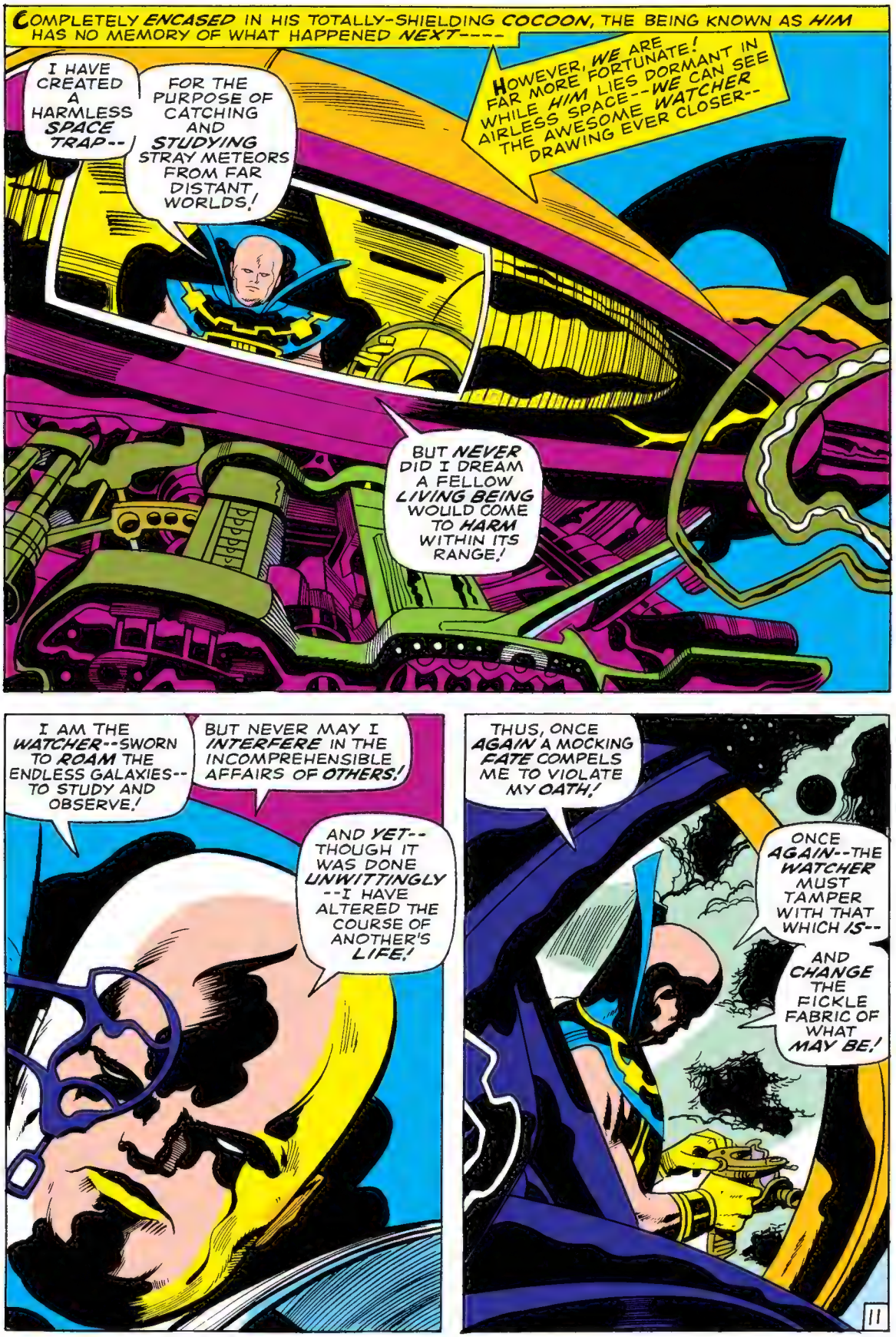

"--I TRAPPED THOSE WHO CALLED THEMSELVES MY MASTERS-- AND SLEW THEM ALL!"

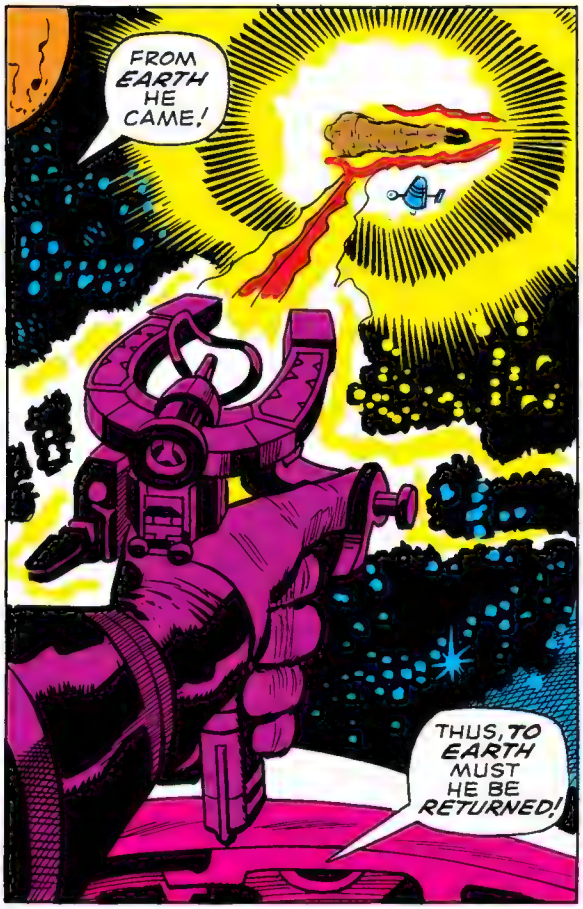
"SICK AT THE THOUGHT OF WHAT I HAD DONE--I WANTED NO MORE CONTACT WITH THE ACCURSED HUMAN RACE! AND SO--"

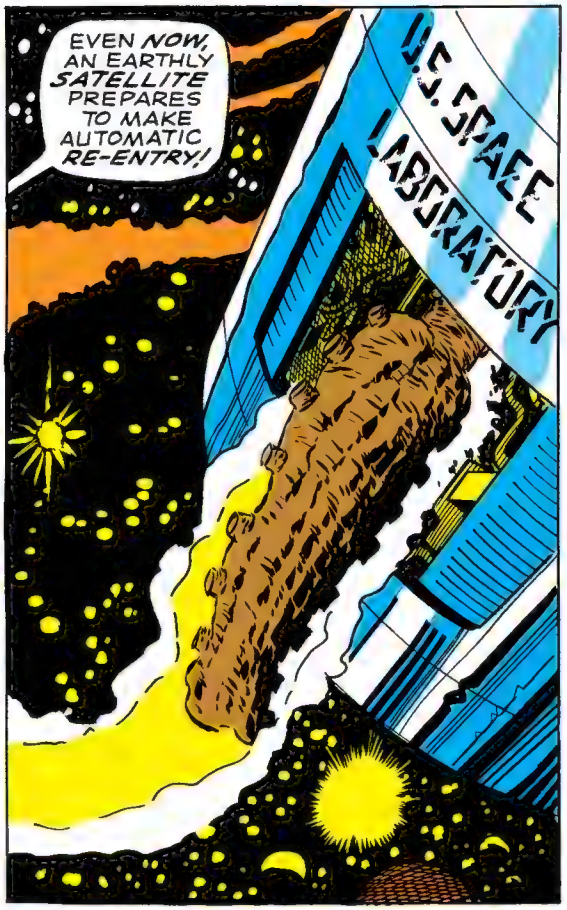

"I USED THE VERY POWERS WHICH THEY HAD GIVEN ME--TO LEAVE THE EARTH-- BY THE PEERLESS POWER OF-- THOUGHT!

"AND I SOUGHT MY DESTINY--AMONG THE DISTANT STARS!"

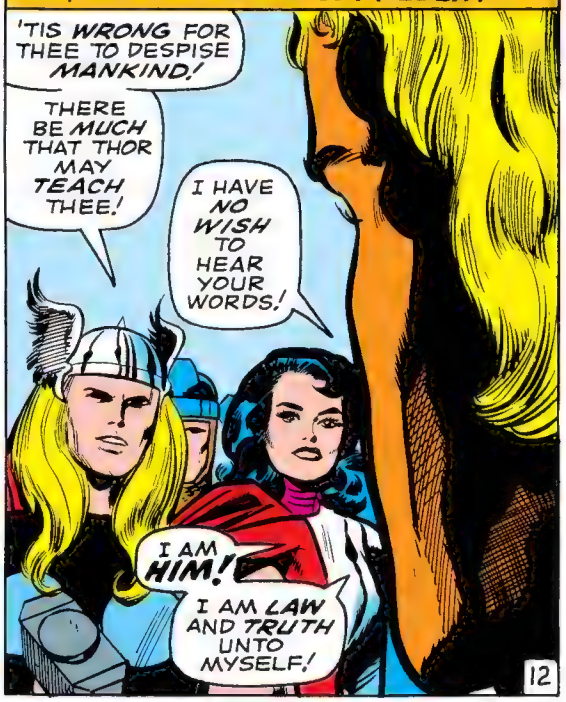
"BUT, I WAS SUDDENLY DRAWN INTO STRANGE AND DEADLY SPACE TRAP--"
"--WHERE COLLIDING METEORS EXPLODED ALL ABOUT ME WITH TITANIC IMPACT!"
"I KNEW THE LIFE I HAD BEEN GIVEN WOULD SOON BE LOST TO ME, UNLESS--"
"I HAD BUT TO THINK OF IT, AND INSTANTLY A NEW, PROTECTIVE COCOON WAS FORMED ABOUT ME ONCE AGAIN!"
"BUT, BEFORE THE WORLD WAS BLOTTED FROM MY SIGHT--"
"I SAW A SILENT STARSHIP HOVER INTO VIEW--AND THEN, I KNEW NO MORE!"


COMPLETELY ENCASED IN HIS TOTALLY-SHIELDING COCOON, THE BEING KNOWN AS HIM HAS NO MEMORY OF WHAT HAPPENED NEXT-----
I HAVE CREATED A HARMLESS SPACE TRAP--
FOR THE PURPOSE OF CATCHING AND STUDYING STRAY METEORS FROM FAR DISTANT WORLDS!
HOWEVER, WE ARE FAR MORE FORTUNATE! WHILE HIM LIES DORMANT IN AIRLESS SPACE--WE CAN SEE THE AWESOME WATCHER DRAWING EVER CLOSER--
BUT NEVER DID I DREAM A FELLOW LIVING BEING WOULD COME TO HARM WITHIN ITS RANGE!
I AM THE WATCHER--SWORN TO ROAM THE ENDLESS GALAXIES--TO STUDY AND OBSERVE!
BUT NEVER MAY I INTERFERE IN THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS!
AND YET--THOUGH IT WAS DONE UNWITTINGLY --I HAVE ALTERED THE COURSE OF ANOTHER'S LIFE!
THUS, ONCE AGAIN A MOCKING FATE COMPELS ME TO VIOLATE MY OATH!
ONCE AGAIN--THE WATCHER MUST TAMPER WITH THAT WHICH IS--
AND CHANGE THE FICKLE FABRIC OF WHAT MAY BE!
11

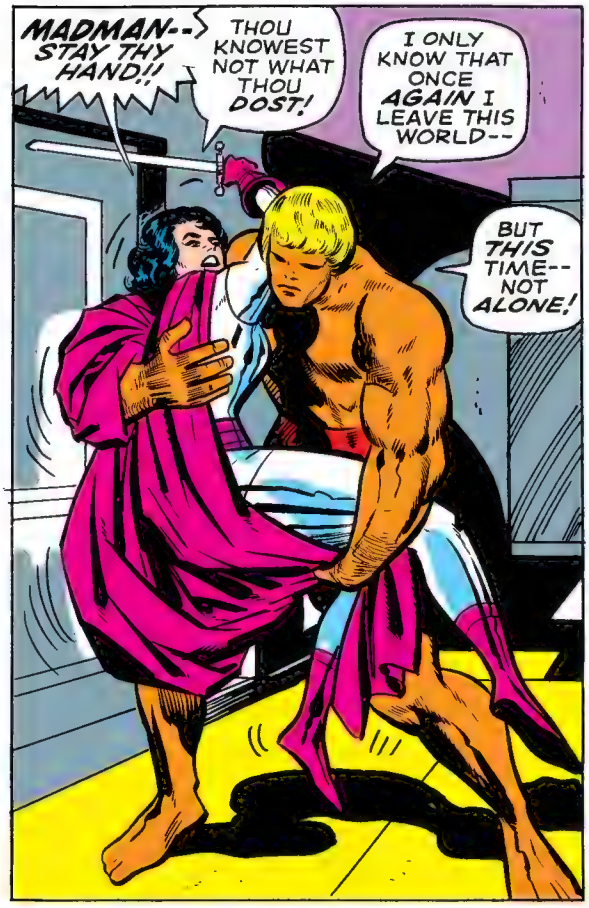


NOTE: THE PRECEDING WAS JUST TO SHOW YOU THAT WE KNOW HOW HIM GOT BACK TO EARTH, EVEN IF OUR LITTLE CAST OF CHARACTERS DOES NOT! AND NOW, BACK TO THE FATEFUL PRESENT--

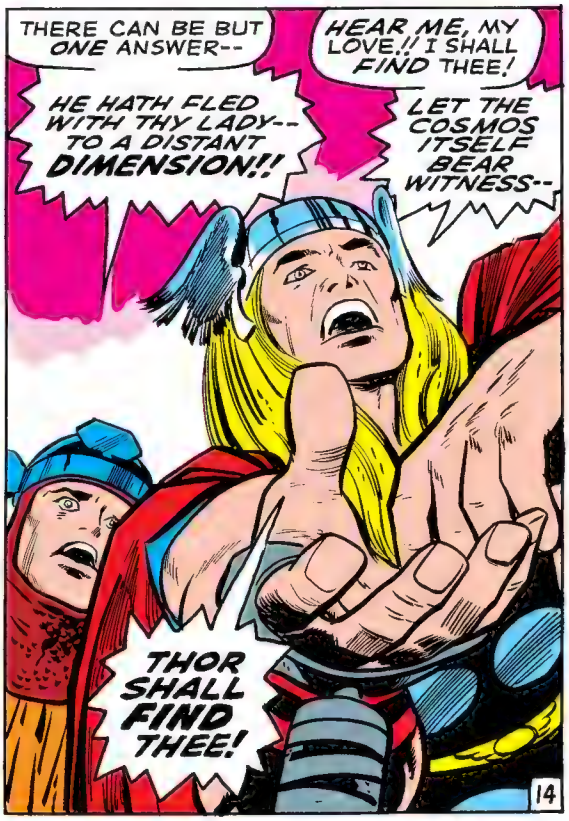

'TIS WRONG FOR THEE TO DESPISE MANKIND!
THERE BE MUCH THAT THOR MAY TEACH THEE!
I HAVE NO WISH TO HEAR YOUR WORDS!
I AM HIM!
I AM LAW AND TRUTH UNTO MYSELF!

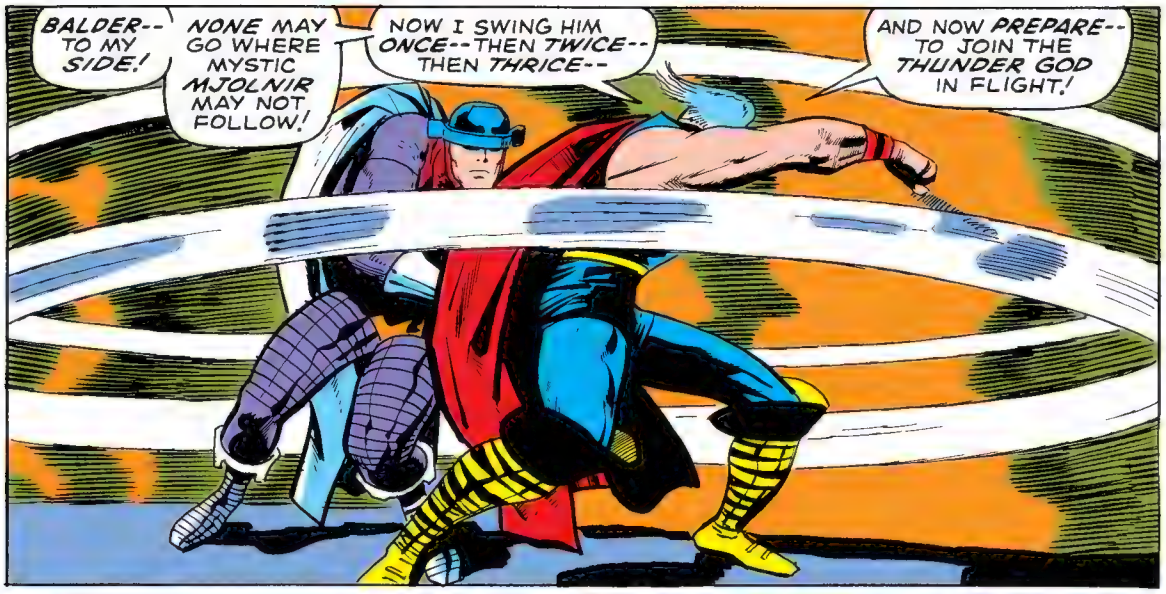
BUT, I AM LONELY! I DESIRE ONE TO BE MY MATE!
SHE IS PLEASANT TO MY EYES! THUS I DO CHOOSE HER!
THOU ART MAD! SHE BE THE GODDESS SIF!
AND I SAY THEE--SHE BE MINE!
HE IS LIKE AN INFANT CHILD!
HE KNOWS NOT WHAT HE SAYETH!
THERE IS NO MORE NEED FOR WORDS!
I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM YOU--SO YOU MUST GO!
IT IS ONLY THE ONE CALLED SIF WHO SHALL REMAIN!
FORSOOTH!! I WARN THEE-- DO NOT ANGER THOR!
ANGER? I KNOW NOT--I CARE NOT-- OF SUCH PETTY EMOTION!
SIF MUST BE MINE! THERE ARE NONE WHO MAY OPPOSE ME!
13

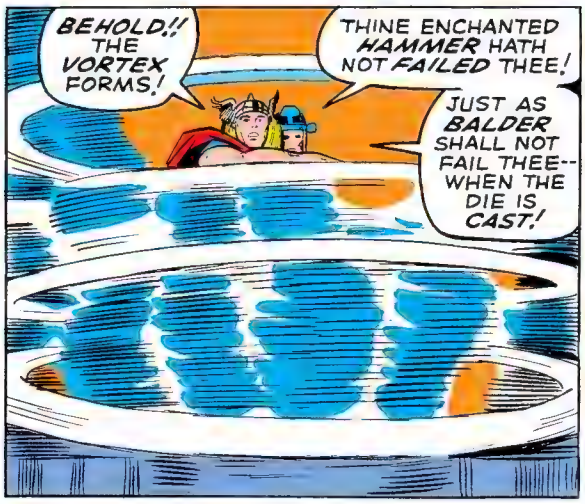

MADMAN--STAY THY HAND!!
THOU KNOWEST NOT WHAT THOU DOST!
I ONLY KNOW THAT ONCE AGAIN I LEAVE THIS WORLD--
BUT THIS TIME--NOT ALONE!

I DARE NOT STRIKE--WHILST SIF BE IN HIS ARMS!
BUT HOLD! WITH THE WAVE OF A HAND--HE DOTH CREATE A SOLAR VORTEX!

IT SPINS FASTER--FASTER--TILL NOT E'EN ODIN COULDST BID IT STOP!
'TIS GONE!!
AND NOW--WITH DEAFENING ROAR--


THERE CAN BE BUT ONE ANSWER--
HEAR ME, MY LOVE!! I SHALL FIND THEE!
HE HATH FLED WITH THY LADY--TO A DISTANT DIMENSION!!
LET THE COSMOS ITSELF BEAR WITNESS--
THOR SHALL FIND THEE!

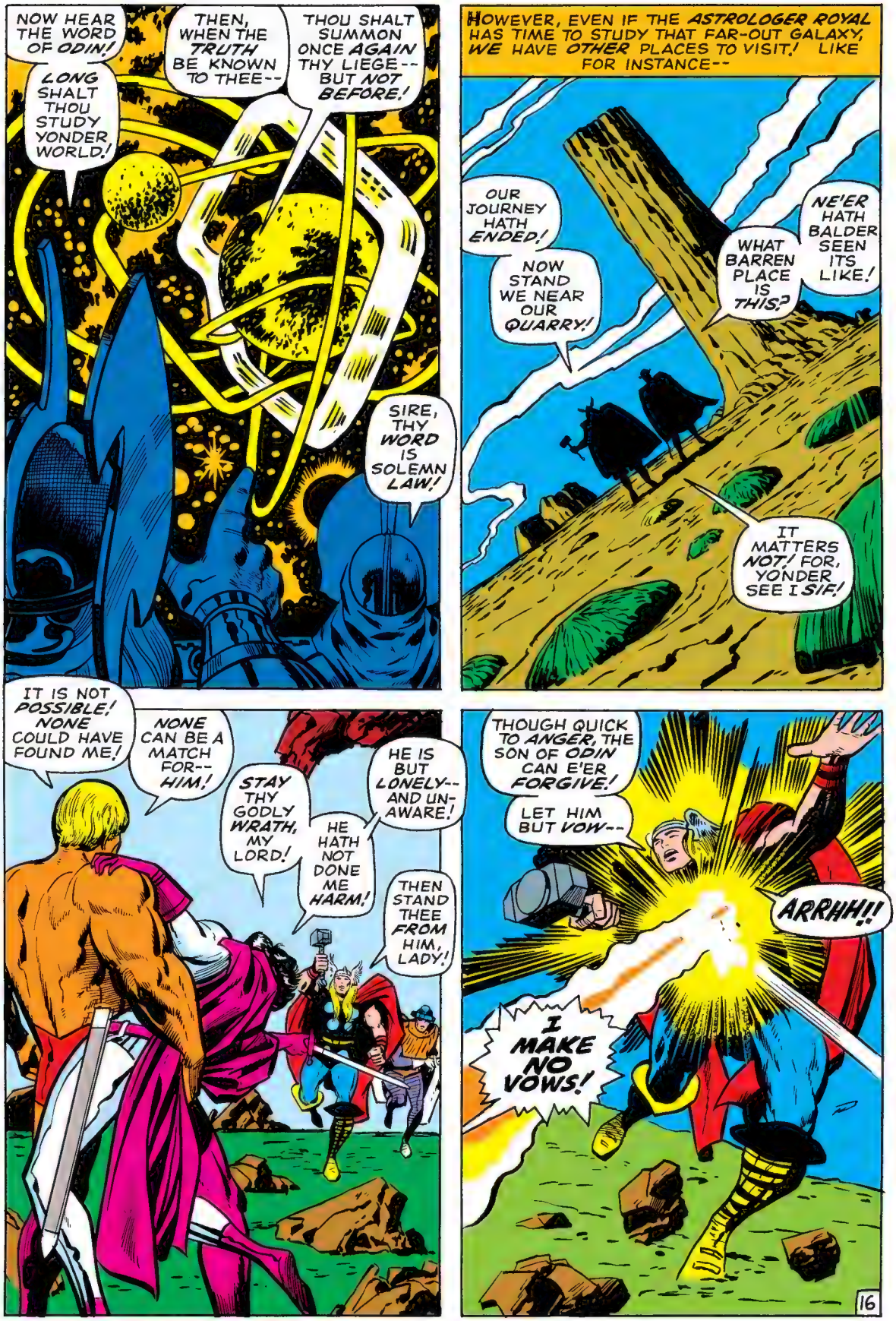

BALDER-- TO MY SIDE!
NONE MAY GO WHERE MYSTIC MJOLNIR MAY NOT FOLLOW!
NOW I SWING HIM ONCE--THEN TWICE-- THEN THRICE--
AND NOW PREPARE-- TO JOIN THE THUNDER GOD IN FLIGHT!


BEHOLD!! THE VORTEX FORMS!
THINE ENCHANTED HAMMER HATH NOT FAILED THEE!
JUST AS BALDER SHALL NOT FAIL THEE-- WHEN THE DIE IS CAST!

'TIS DONE!
NOW ON-- TO ANOTHER WORLD!

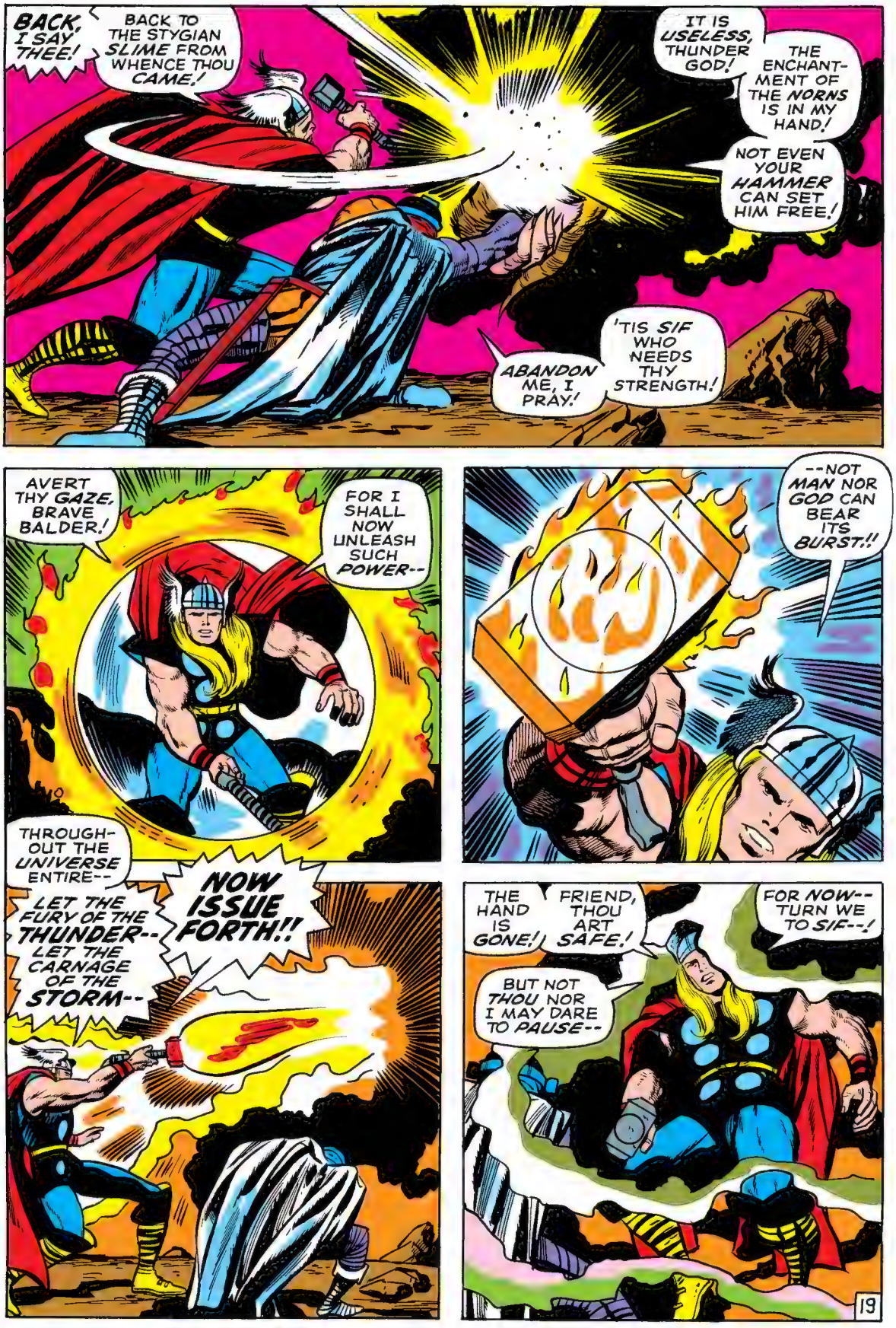
AND, SPEAKING OF OTHER WORLDS, LEAVE US NOT FORGET ETERNAL ASGARD--
I MUST SUMMON THE ALL-FATHER!
I HAVE FOUND A NEW, LONG-HIDDEN GALAXY AMONGST THE DISTANT STARS!

THOU DIDST WELL TO CALL THY LIEGE!
KNOW YOU ASTROLOGER ROYAL, THAT ODIN DOTH SEEK THE LAND THAT SPAWNED GALACTUS!
HAST THOU FOUND IT AT LAST?
I KNOW NOT, SIRE!
'TIS ALL MOST PASSING STRANGE!


NOW HEAR THE WORD OF ODIN!
LONG SHALT THOU STUDY YONDER WORLD!
THEN, WHEN THE TRUTH BE KNOWN TO THEE--
THOU SHALT SUMMON ONCE AGAIN THY LIEGE-- BUT NOT BEFORE!
SIRE, THY WORD IS SOLEMN LAW!
HOWEVER, EVEN IF THE ASTROLOGER ROYAL HAS TIME TO STUDY THAT FAR-OUT GALAXY, WE HAVE OTHER PLACES TO VISIT! LIKE FOR INSTANCE--
OUR JOURNEY HATH ENDED!
NOW STAND WE NEAR OUR QUARRY!
WHAT BARREN PLACE IS THIS?
NE'ER HATH BALDER SEEN ITS LIKE!
IT MATTERS NOT! FOR, YONDER SEE I SIF!
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE! NONE COULD HAVE FOUND ME!
NONE CAN BE A MATCH FOR-- HIM!
STAY THY GODLY WRATH, MY LORD!
HE HATH NOT DONE ME HARM!
HE IS BUT LONELY-- AND UN-AWARE!
THEN STAND THEE FROM HIM, LADY!
THOUGH QUICK TO ANGER, THE SON OF ODIN CAN E'ER FORGIVE!
LET HIM BUT VOW--
ARRHH!!
I MAKE NO VOWS!
16

I CALL THEE WRETCH!!
THOU DIDST STRIKE WHILST HE DID OFFER MERCY!
NOW SHALT THOU ANSWER TO THE BLADE OF BALDER!
DEFEND THYSELF, BASE VILLAIN!!
SUDDENLY, FROM THE MOTIONLESS FIGURE OF HIM--A POTENT FORCE BLAST ISSUES FORTH--ROCKING THE GROUND WITH THE FURY OF A HUNDRED QUAKES--!
I NEED NO WEAPONS FOR MY DEFENSE!
I WAS CREATED TO BE--POWER ITSELF!
THEN THOU LEAVEST ME NO CHOICE--
I MUST DESTROY THEE!!
THUNDER GOD!! LOOK!!
BEHIND ME--FORMING IN THE AIR--!!
IT CANNOT BE--AND YET--IT IS!

WHY SO SURPRISED, MY PRETTIES?
HAVE YOU NEVER SEEN THE HANDIWORK OF HAAG?
THE TIME IS COME TO CAPTURE BALDER!
HAAG, WHO CAN BRIDGE THE DIMENSIONS THEMSELVES IN THE SERVICE OF KARNILLA!
FOR NOW, WITHOUT HIS AID, MAYHAP THOR SHALL DIE!
UNHAND HIM, DEADLY CRONE!
NOT EVEN SPELL OF THINE SHALL WIN THE DAY!
TAX NOT MY PATIENCE, WOMAN--
OUR FIGHT IS NOT WITH THEE!
ARE YOU NOT SON OF ODIN?? DO I NOT SERVE THE QUEEN OF NORNS??
SO I STRIKE NOW-- WHEN YOU CANNOT PURSUE ME!
ENEMIES WE WERE--AND ARE-- AND SHALL BE EVER!
THOR HATH NO NEED OF PURSUIT!
THOU SHALT NOT PREVAIL!
18


BACK, I SAY THEE!
BACK TO THE STYGIAN SLIME FROM WHENCE THOU CAME!
IT IS USELESS, THUNDER GOD!
THE ENCHANTMENT OF THE NORNS IS IN MY HAND!
NOT EVEN YOUR HAMMER CAN SET HIM FREE!
'TIS SIF WHO NEEDS THY STRENGTH!
ABANDON ME, I PRAY!
AVERT THY GAZE, BRAVE BALDER!
FOR I SHALL NOW UNLEASH SUCH POWER--
--NOT MAN NOR GOD CAN BEAR ITS BURST!!
THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE--
LET THE FURY OF THE THUNDER--
LET THE CARNAGE OF THE STORM--
NOW ISSUE FORTH!!
THE HAND IS GONE!
FRIEND, THOU ART SAFE!
FOR NOW-- TURN WE TO SIF--!
BUT NOT THOU NOR I MAY DARE TO PAUSE--
19

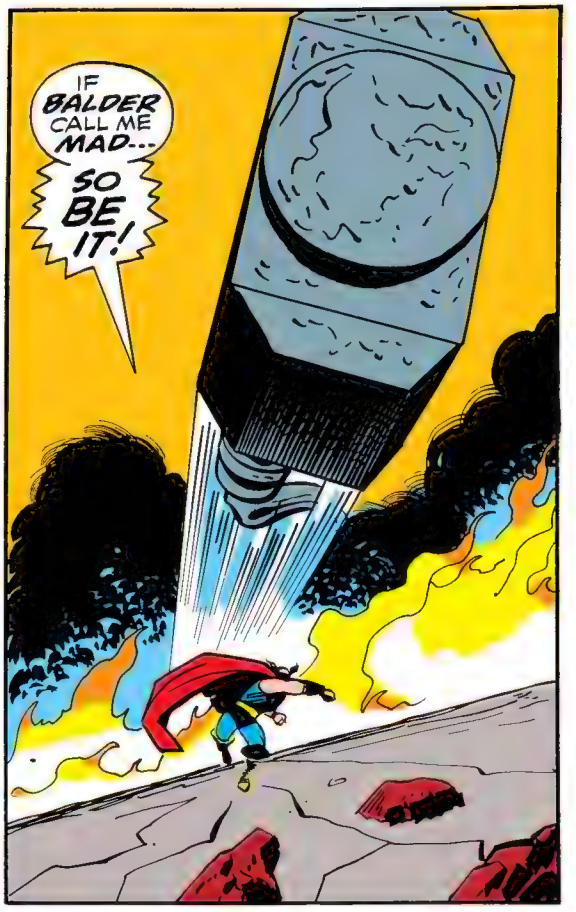
FEAR NOT, MY LADY! NO HARM SHALL COME--
BUT NO--!
I PRAY MY EYES DECEIVE ME!!
WE SEE A'RIGHT, GOOD PRINCE!
FAIR SIF-- AND HIM-- ARE GONE!
BUT THOU DIDST FIND HIM ONCE!
HE MUST KNOW THAT 'TWILL BE DONE AGAIN!
MAYHAP HE'LL BE THE WISER NOW!!
AND-- A LONGER START HATH HE!!
WHAT IF--HE BE BEYOND THE RANGE OF MJOLNIR'S POWER--?
NO! NO! I DARE NOT THINK UPON IT!
'TWAS FAULT OF MINE--
HADST THOU NOT STOPPED, TO GRANT ME AID--!!
FAULT?? FAULT?? WHO SPEAKS OF FAULT??
'TIS NOT A SCAPEGOAT I DO SEEK--
--BUT SHE-- WHO HOLDS MY HEART!
AND, MARK YE WELL THE WORDS OF THOR--
ONCE SHE BE SAFE-- VENGEANCE MUST BE MINE!
VENGEANCE-- SUCH AS NONE WHO LIVE HAVE EVER KNOWN!
NEXT: A GOD BERSERK!

THOR
15¢ IND.
166 JULY
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE THUNDER GOD BATTLES AS NEVER BEFORE!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
A GOD BERSERK!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
A GOD BERSERK!
THE MORE-THAN-MORTAL BEING KNOWN AS HIM HATH CAPTURED THE GODDESS SIF!
BUT THE POWER OF THOR SHALL FIND HIM--- AND CRUSH HIM--- FORE'ER!
NONE MAY THREATEN MY MOST TRULY BELOVED--- WITHOUT FACING THE WRATH OF THE THUNDER GOD!
BROUGHT TO YOU IN ALL ITS GLITTERING GLORY BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE And JACK (KING) KIRBY
VALIANT VINNIE COLLETTA EMBELLISHER
SLAMMIN' SAMMY ROSEN, LETTERER
PREPARE FOR BATTLE, SUCH AS THOU HAST NEVER WITNESSED!
PREPARE FOR DRAMA, SUCH AS THOU HAST NEVER KNOWN!

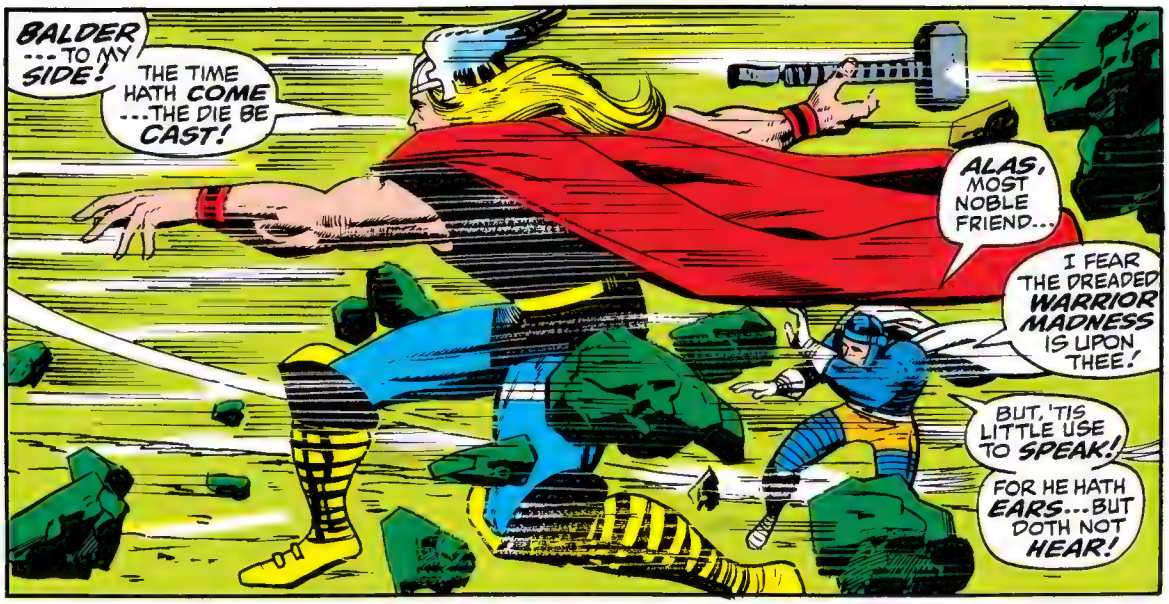
IN ALL THE UNIVERSE, THERE BE NO PLACE HE CAN HIDE!
IF A GALAXY PROTECT HIM... THEN THE GALAXY SHALL CRUMBLE!
THOR SHALL TOPPLE THE PLANETS ...LAY WASTE TO THE COSMOS...!
SON OF ODIN... I BID THEE HOLD!
THY SEETHING RAGE BIDS FAIR TO MAKE THEE MAD!
SPEAK NOT TO THOR OF MADNESS!
SPEAK ONLY OF REVENGE!
REVENGE!
REVENGE!
2

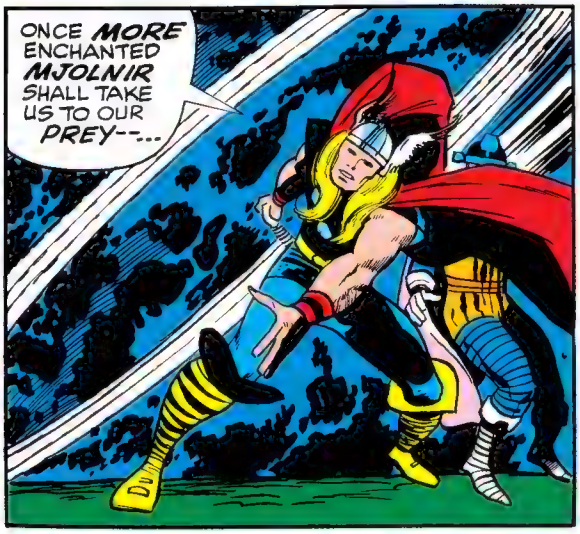
REVENGE!
SUCH AS NONE WHO LIVE HAVE EVER KNOWN!


IF BALDER CALL ME MAD...
SO BE IT!

OF WHAT USE BE SANITY, WHEN NAUGHT BUT POWER WILL PREVAIL ??!

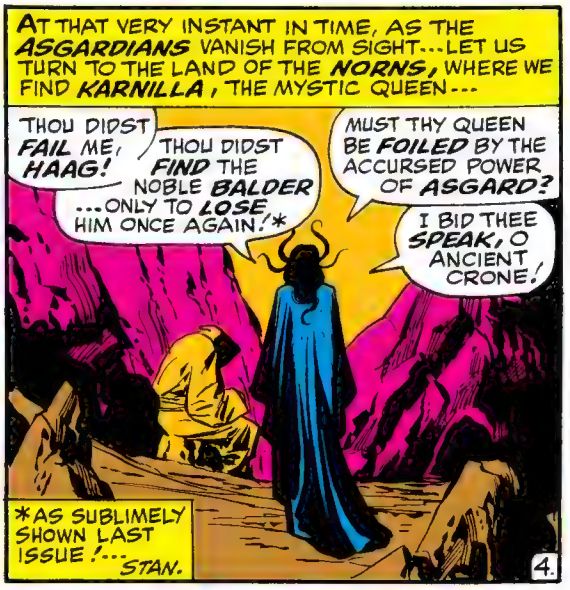
AND IN ALL THE WORLD... SAVE FOR REGAL ODIN...
THERE BE NO POWER TO EQUAL MINE!
3.

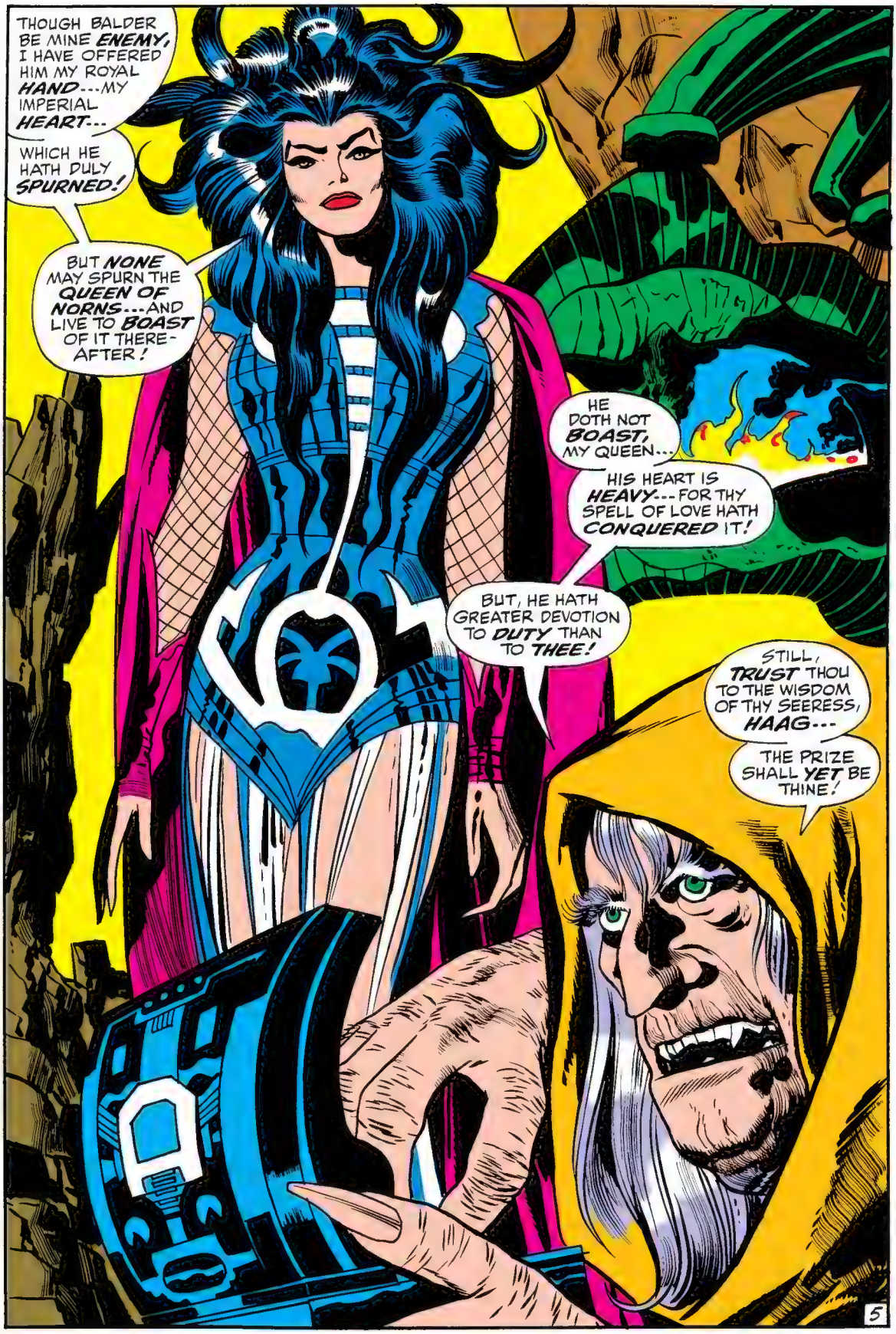

BALDER --- TO MY SIDE!
THE TIME HATH COME --- THE DIE BE CAST!
ALAS, MOST NOBLE FRIEND...
I FEAR THE DREADED WARRIOR MADNESS IS UPON THEE!
BUT, 'TIS LITTLE USE TO SPEAK!
FOR HE HATH EARS... BUT DOTH NOT HEAR!

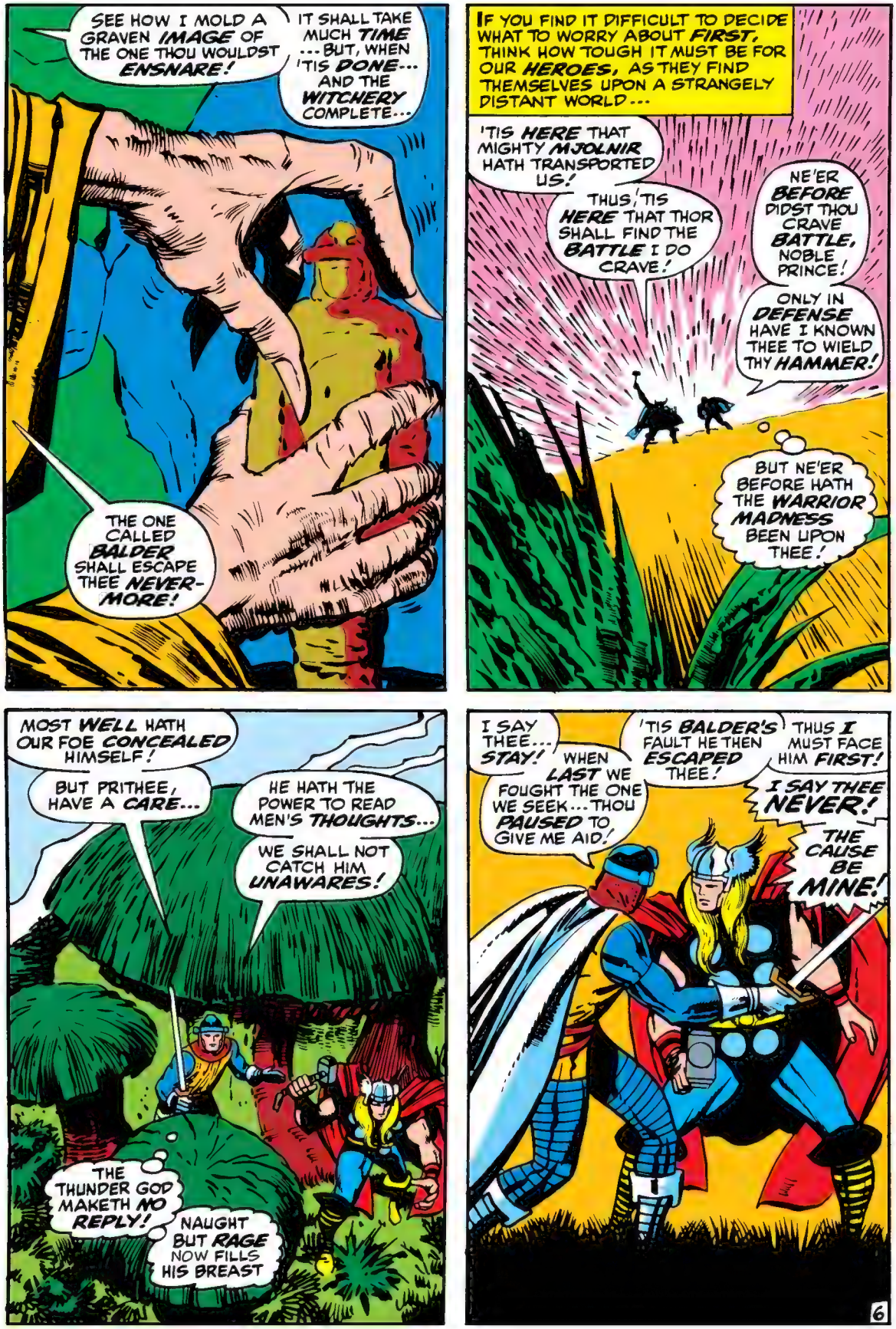

ONCE MORE ENCHANTED MJOLNIR SHALL TAKE US TO OUR PREY--...

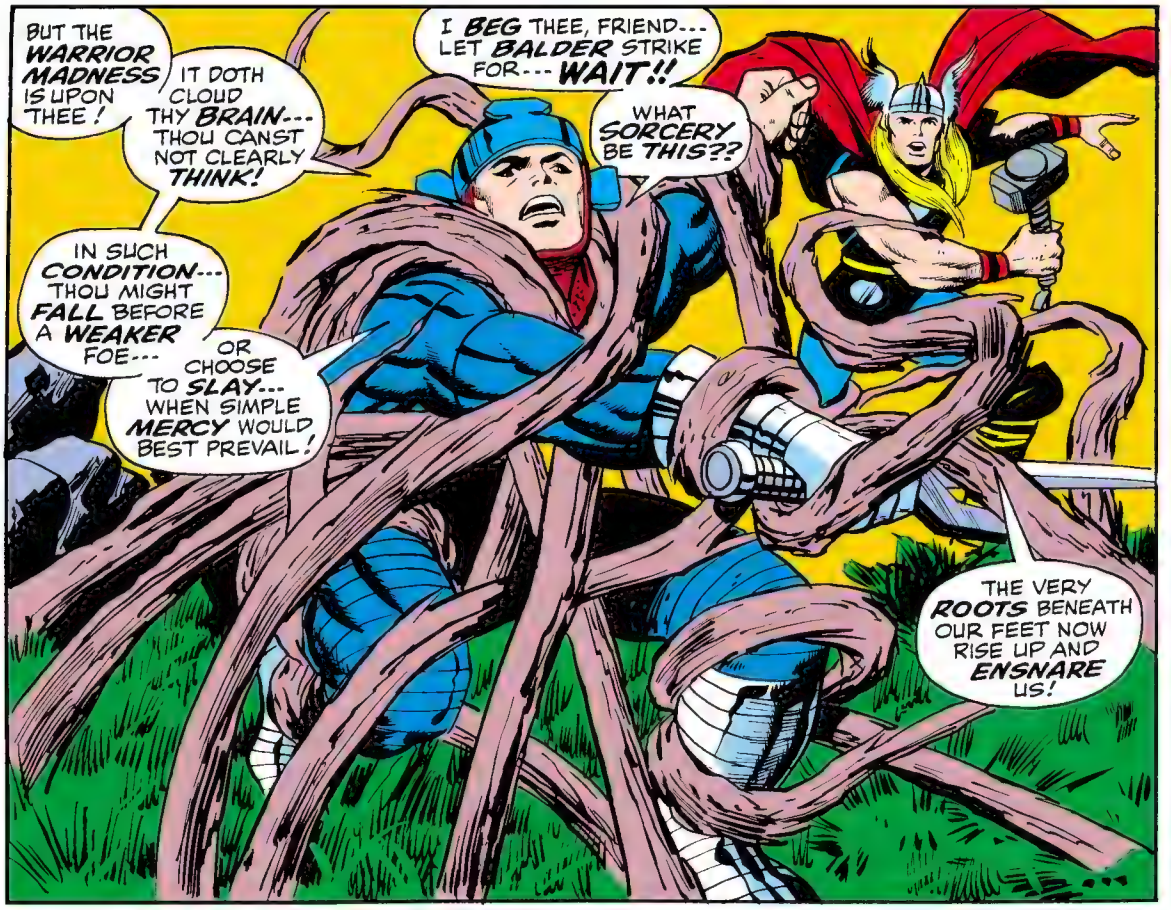
AND THERE HE SHALL BE MINE TO SEIZE... AND STRIKE!

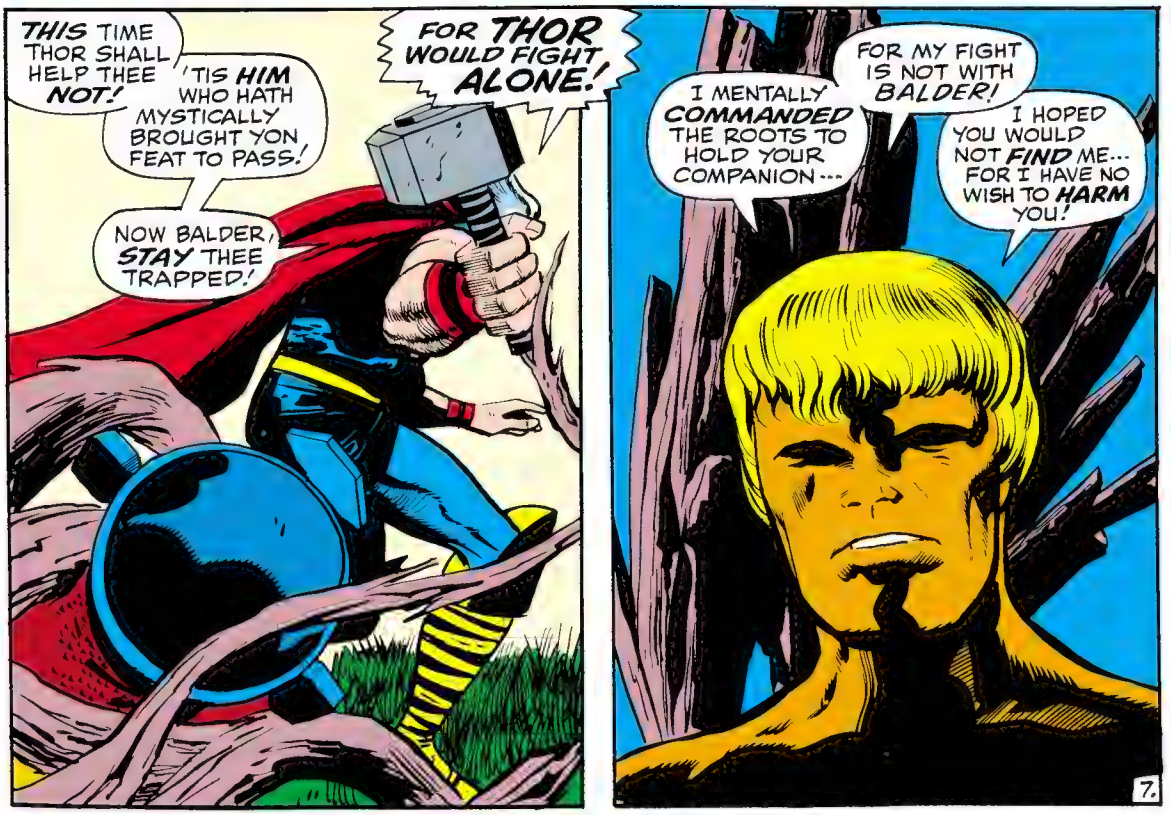
--AND SLAY!


AT THAT VERY INSTANT IN TIME, AS THE ASGARDIANS VANISH FROM SIGHT---LET US TURN TO THE LAND OF THE NORNS, WHERE WE FIND KARNILLA, THE MYSTIC QUEEN---
THOU DIDST FAIL ME, HAAG!
THOU DIDST FIND THE NOBLE BALDER ...ONLY TO LOSE HIM ONCE AGAIN!*
MUST THY QUEEN BE FOILED BY THE ACCURSED POWER OF ASGARD?
I BID THEE SPEAK, O ANCIENT CRONE!
*AS SUBLIMELY SHOWN LAST ISSUE!---STAN.

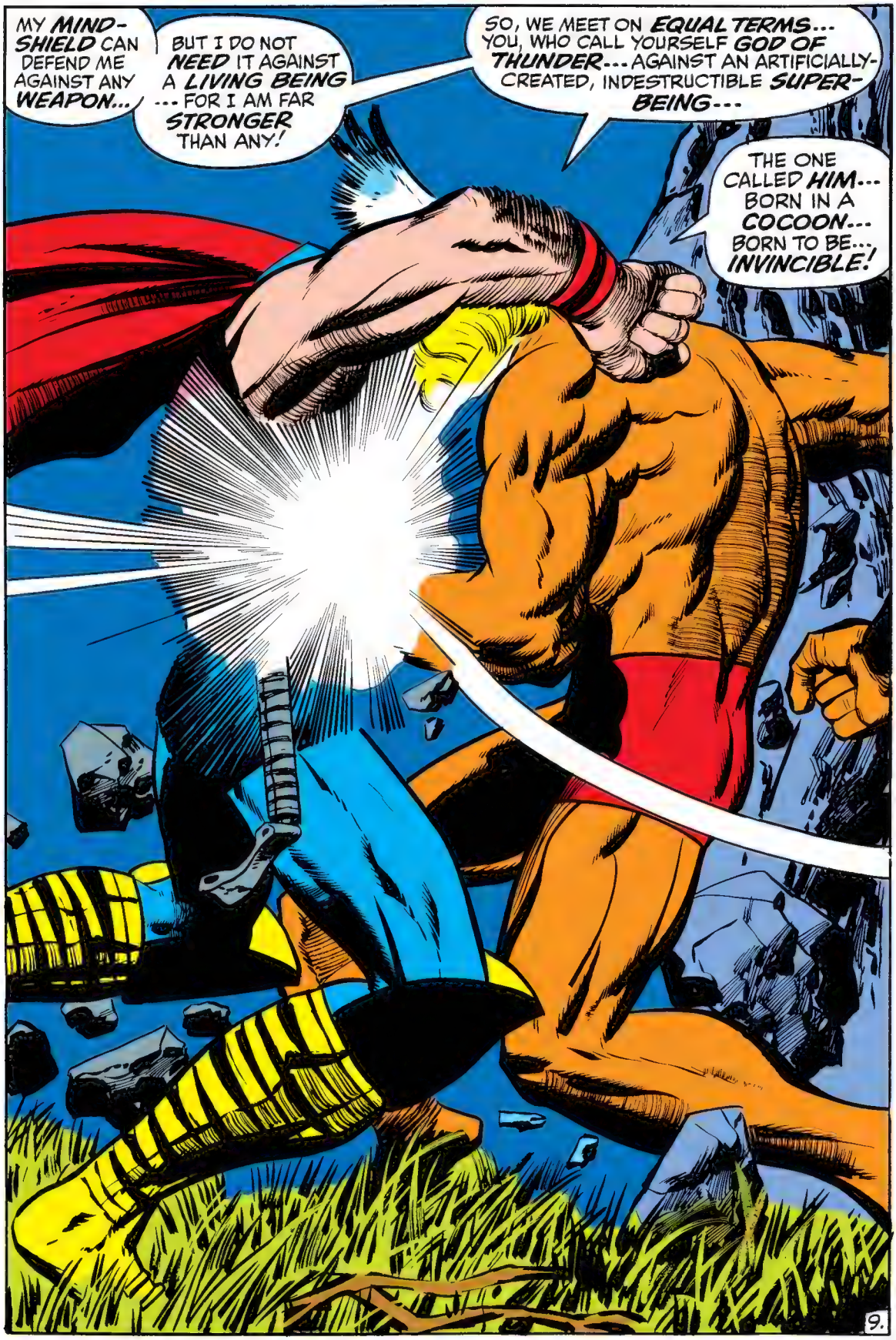

THOUGH BALDER BE MINE ENEMY, I HAVE OFFERED HIM MY ROYAL HAND---MY IMPERIAL HEART...
WHICH HE HATH DULY SPURNED!
BUT NONE MAY SPURN THE QUEEN OF NORNS---AND LIVE TO BOAST OF IT THEREAFTER!
HE DOTH NOT BOAST, MY QUEEN...
HIS HEART IS HEAVY---FOR THY SPELL OF LOVE HATH CONQUERED IT!
BUT, HE HATH GREATER DEVOTION TO DUTY THAN TO THEE!
STILL, TRUST THOU TO THE WISDOM OF THY SEERESS, HAAG---
THE PRIZE SHALL YET BE THINE!

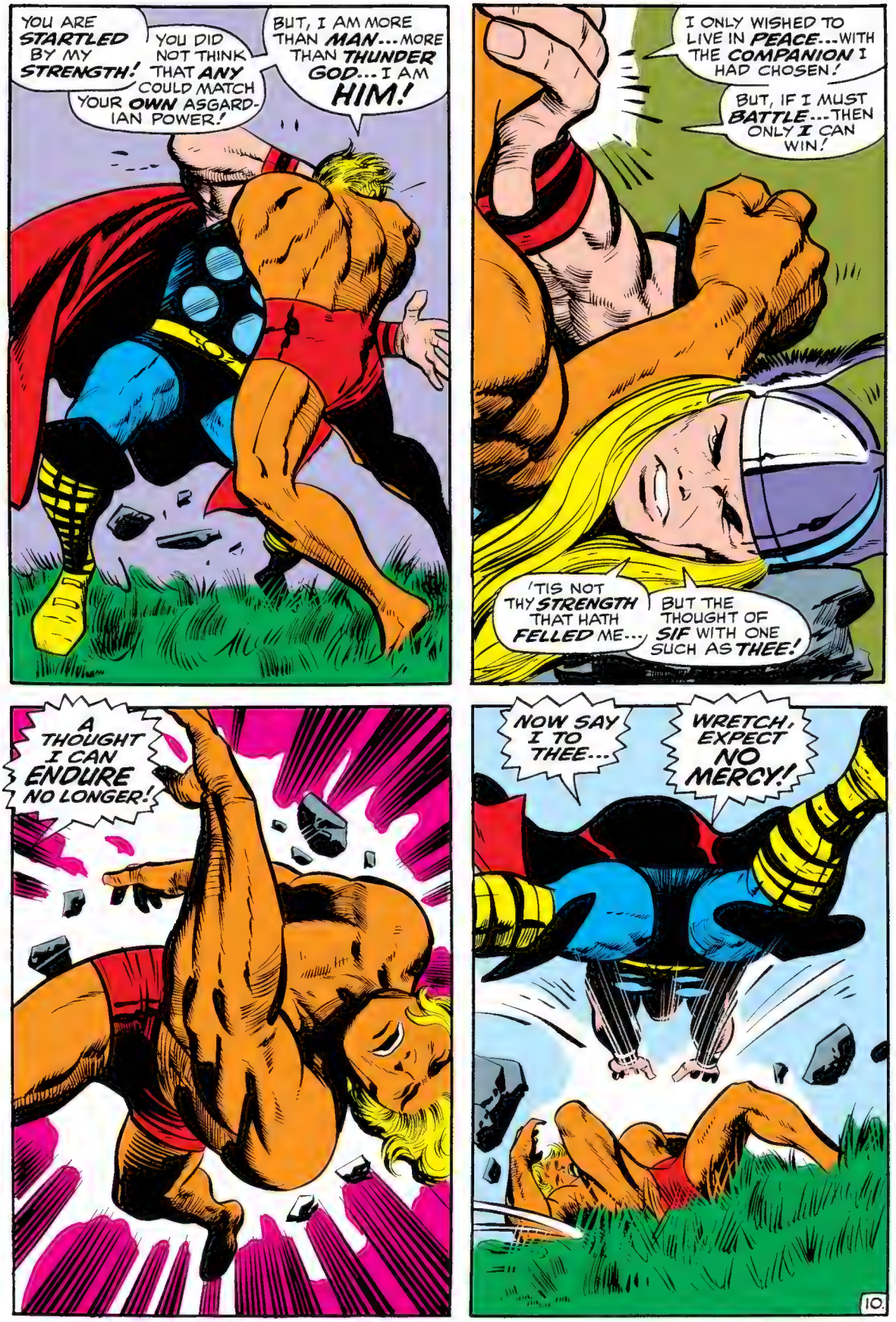

SEE HOW I MOLD A GRAVEN IMAGE OF THE ONE THOU WOULDST ENSNARE!
IT SHALL TAKE MUCH TIME ... BUT, WHEN 'TIS DONE... AND THE WITCHERY COMPLETE...
THE ONE CALLED BALDER SHALL ESCAPE THEE NEVER-MORE!
IF YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DECIDE WHAT TO WORRY ABOUT FIRST, THINK HOW TOUGH IT MUST BE FOR OUR HEROES, AS THEY FIND THEMSELVES UPON A STRANGELY DISTANT WORLD ...
'TIS HERE THAT MIGHTY MJOLNIR HATH TRANSPORTED US!
THUS, 'TIS HERE THAT THOR SHALL FIND THE BATTLE I DO CRAVE!
NE'ER BEFORE DIDST THOU CRAVE BATTLE, NOBLE PRINCE!
ONLY IN DEFENSE HAVE I KNOWN THEE TO WIELD THY HAMMER!
BUT NE'ER BEFORE HATH THE WARRIOR MADNESS BEEN UPON THEE!
MOST WELL HATH OUR FOE CONCEALED HIMSELF!
BUT PRITHEE, HAVE A CARE...
HE HATH THE POWER TO READ MEN'S THOUGHTS...
WE SHALL NOT CATCH HIM UNAWARES!
THE THUNDER GOD MAKETH NO REPLY!
NAUGHT BUT RAGE NOW FILLS HIS BREAST
I SAY THEE... STAY!
WHEN LAST WE FOUGHT THE ONE WE SEEK... THOU PAUSED TO GIVE ME AID!
'TIS BALDER'S FAULT HE THEN ESCAPED THEE!
THUS I MUST FACE HIM FIRST!
I SAY THEE NEVER!
THE CAUSE BE MINE!
6


BUT THE WARRIOR MADNESS IS UPON THEE!
IT DOTH CLOUD THY BRAIN--- THOU CANST NOT CLEARLY THINK!
IN SUCH CONDITION--- THOU MIGHT FALL BEFORE A WEAKER FOE---
OR CHOOSE TO SLAY--- WHEN SIMPLE MERCY WOULD BEST PREVAIL!
I BEG THEE, FRIEND--- LET BALDER STRIKE FOR--- WAIT!!
WHAT SORCERY BE THIS??
THE VERY ROOTS BENEATH OUR FEET NOW RISE UP AND ENSNARE US!

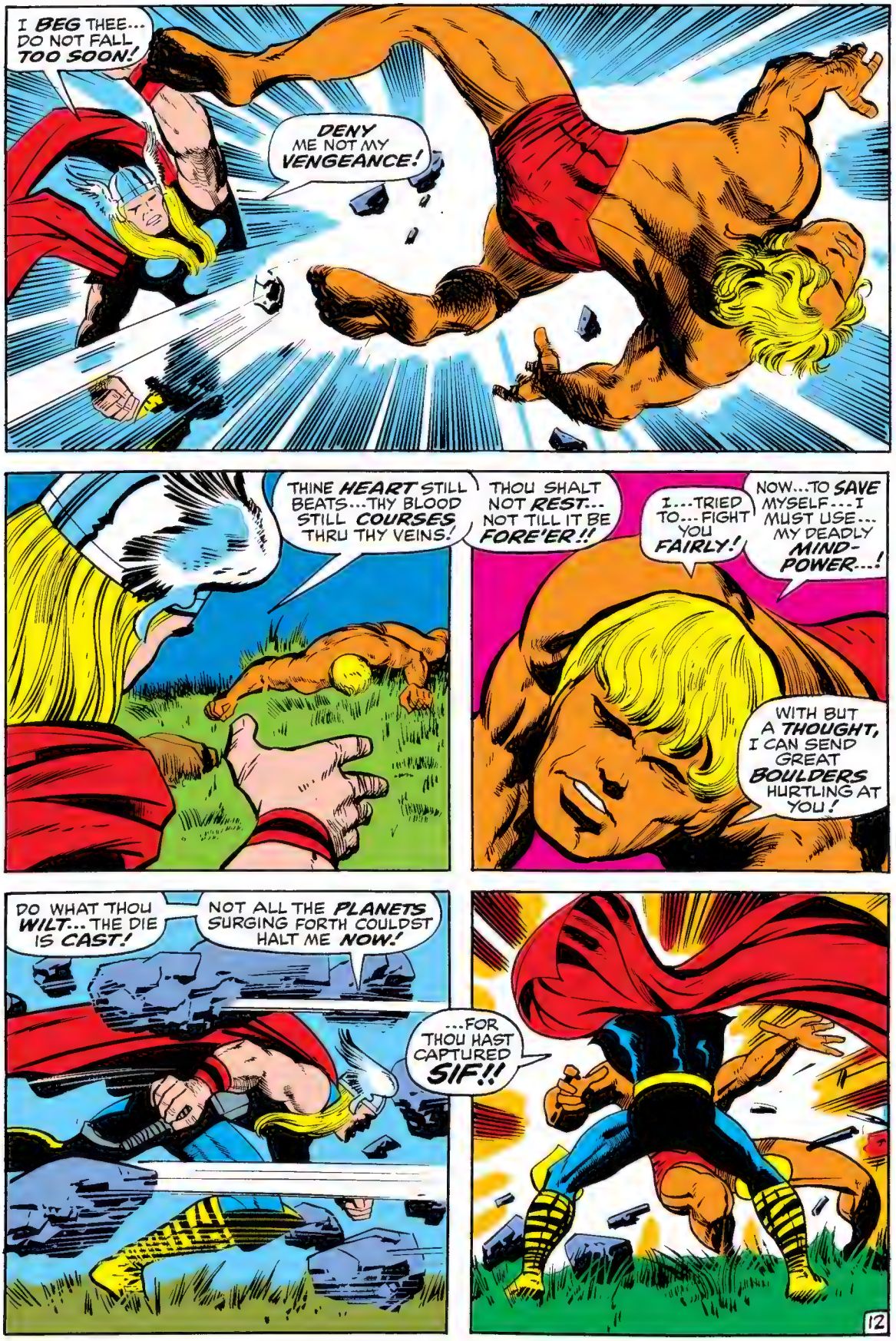

THIS TIME THOR SHALL HELP THEE NOT!
'TIS HIM WHO HATH MYSTICALLY BROUGHT YON FEAT TO PASS!
NOW BALDER, STAY THEE TRAPPED!
FOR THOR WOULD FIGHT ALONE!
I MENTALLY COMMANDED THE ROOTS TO HOLD YOUR COMPANION---
FOR MY FIGHT IS NOT WITH BALDER!
I HOPED YOU WOULD NOT FIND ME... FOR I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM YOU!

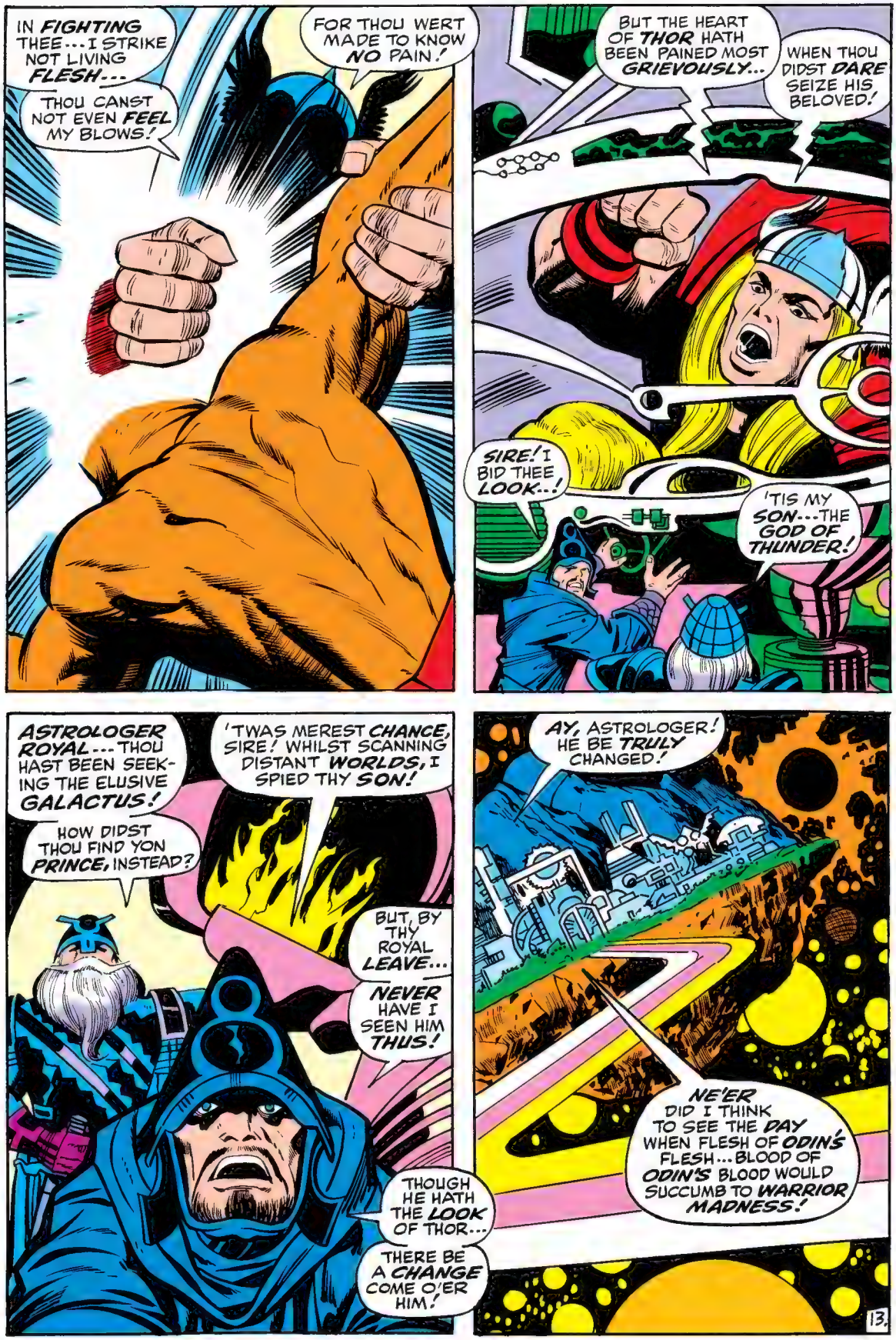
HARM ME??!
KNOWEST THOU THAT I BE THOR ---I BE THUNDER GOD IM-MORTAL!!
NO MATTER! I AM HIM... NOT BORN OF MAN AND WOMAN!
I WAS CREATED TO BE INVINCIBLE!
AND THOSE WHO MADE ME ---MADE ME WELL!
THOU CANST WITHSTAND THE BLUDGEONING FORCE OF MJOLNIR!!
BUT STILL SHALL THOR DESTROY THEE!
WHY DO YOU SO HATE ME? I HAVE DONE NO HARM!
--WHERE NO MISHAP CAN BEFALL HER!
THE FEMALE IS SAFE IN AERO-SPACE, WHERE I HAVE PLACED HER!
WITHIN MY COCOON, I HAVE KNOWN GREAT LONELINESS... SO I HAVE TAKEN A COMPANION!
IS THAT NOT WHAT YOU WOULD DO?
BELOVED SIF!!
HE TAUNTS ME WITH THE SIGHT OF THEE!
NOT EVEN MINE HAMMER SHALT STRIKE THEE NOW!
ONLY THE FEEL OF MY NAKED LIMBS BATTERING THEE INTO LIFELESSNESS CAN AVENGE THY MONSTROUS VILLAINY!
WRETCHED ONE... DEFEND THY-SELF!
8

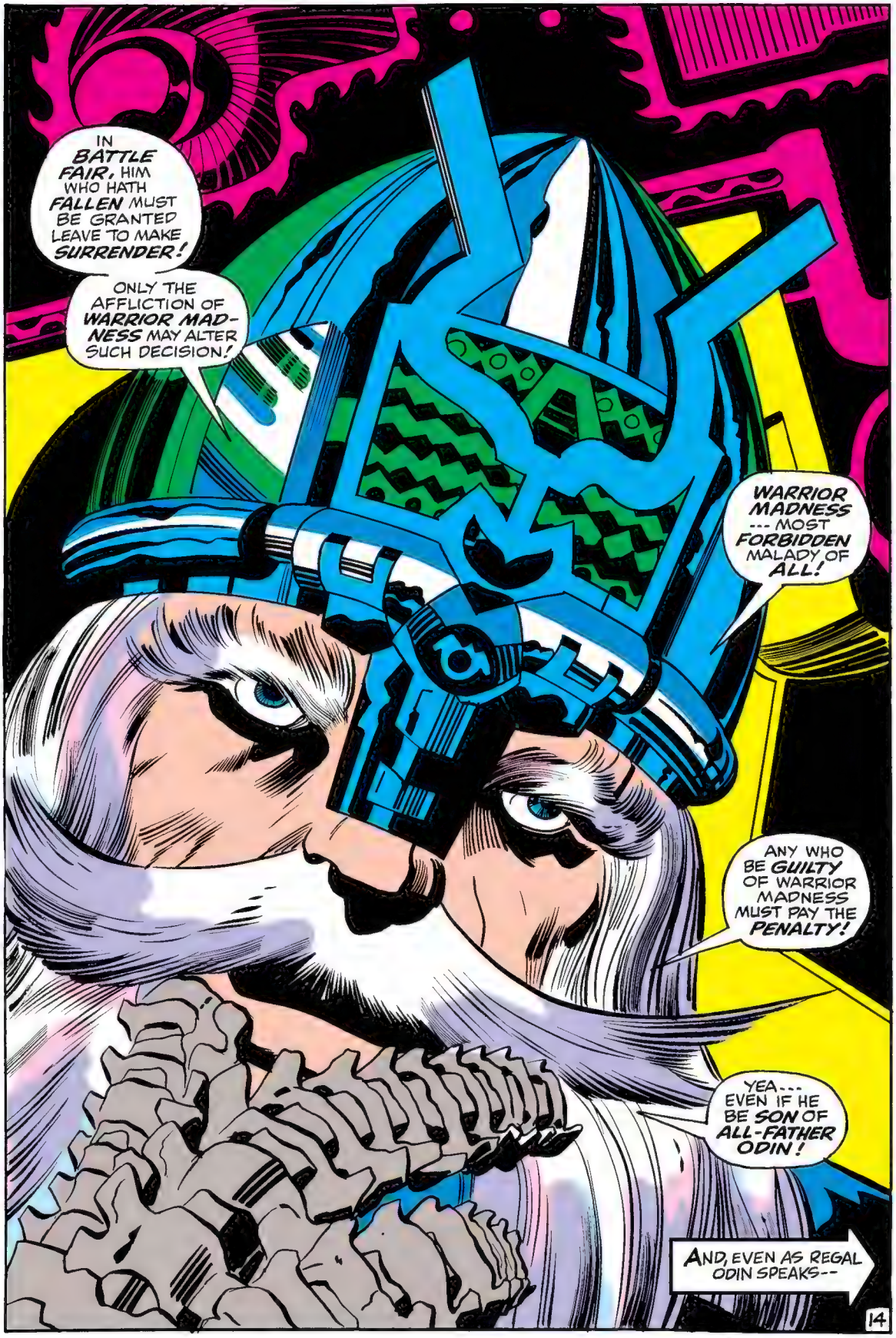

MY MIND-SHIELD CAN DEFEND ME AGAINST ANY WEAPON...
BUT I DO NOT NEED IT AGAINST A LIVING BEING --- FOR I AM FAR STRONGER THAN ANY!
SO, WE MEET ON EQUAL TERMS... YOU, WHO CALL YOURSELF GOD OF THUNDER --- AGAINST AN ARTIFICIALLY-CREATED, INDESTRUCTIBLE SUPER-BEING ---
THE ONE CALLED HIM... BORN IN A COCOON... BORN TO BE... INVINCIBLE!

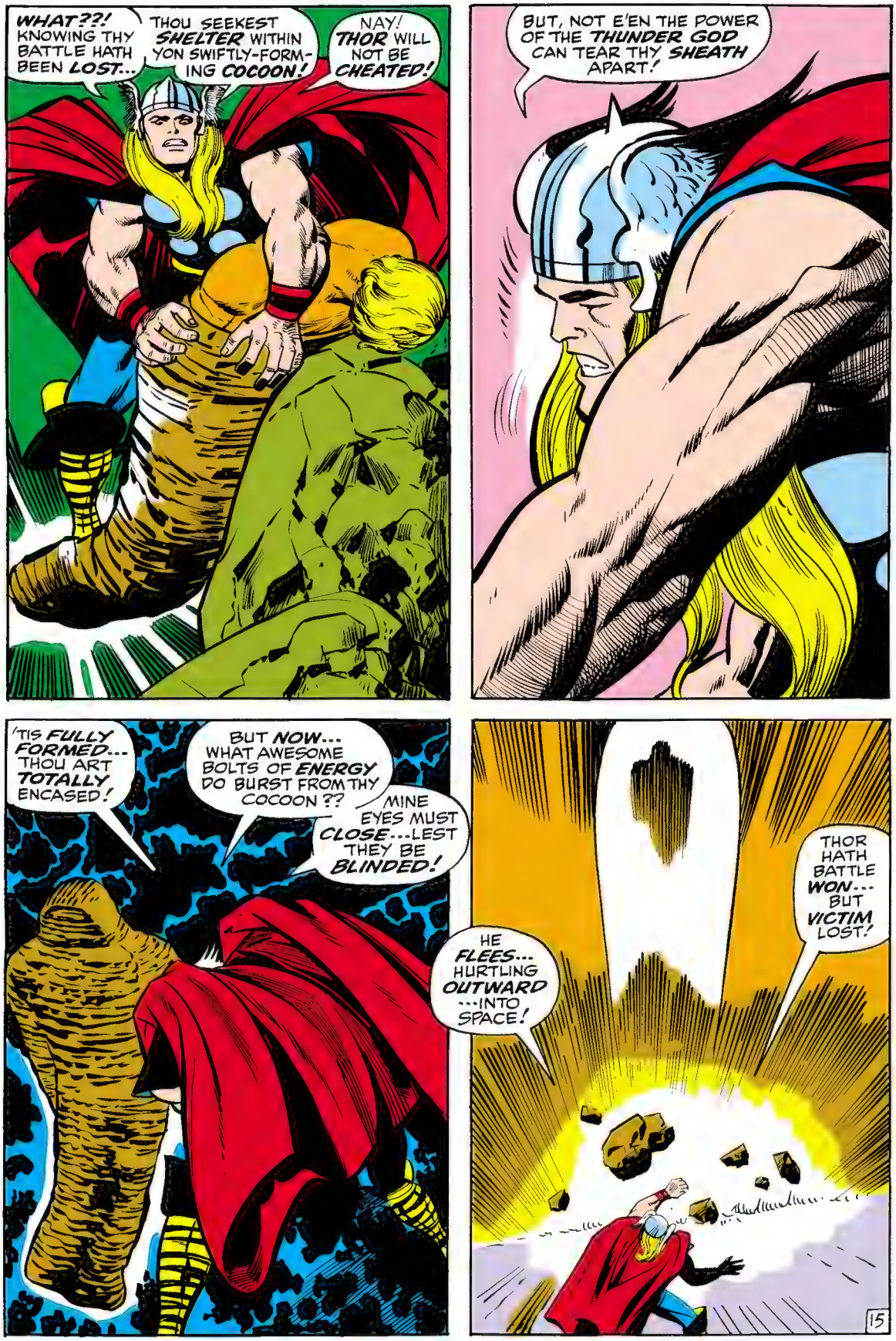

YOU ARE STARTLED BY MY STRENGTH!
YOU DID NOT THINK THAT ANY COULD MATCH YOUR OWN ASGARDIAN POWER!
BUT, I AM MORE THAN MAN... MORE THAN THUNDER GOD... I AM HIM!
I ONLY WISHED TO LIVE IN PEACE... WITH THE COMPANION I HAD CHOSEN!
BUT, IF I MUST BATTLE... THEN ONLY I CAN WIN!
'TIS NOT THY STRENGTH THAT HATH FELLED ME...
BUT THE THOUGHT OF SIF WITH ONE SUCH AS THEE!
A THOUGHT I CAN ENDURE NO LONGER!
NOW SAY I TO THEE...
WRETCH, EXPECT NO MERCY!
10.

EVEN AS THE THUNDER GOD ATTACKS, AN ANGUISHED VOICE CRIES OUT, FROM THE GRAPPLING VINES ACROSS THE FIELD OF BATTLE...
NO, THOR... NO! HE HATH WRONGED AS A CHILD MIGHT DO WRONG!
HE ACTED NOT IN MALICE!
'TIS USELESS!! HE CANNOT CAST OFF THE WARRIOR MADNESS!
IT MATTERS NOT HOW POWERFUL THE ONE CALLED HIM MAY BE...
HE FIGHTS THE SON OF ODIN... EMBODIMENT OF POWER... THE PRINCE OF BATTLE!
VILLAIN... TO THY FEET!
THOR NOW SAYS THEE RISE!!
CLING TO ME NOT, IGNOBLE ONE!!
LOOK IN MINE EYES... THOU SHALT FIND THERE NO REPRIEVE!
11.


I BEG THEE... DO NOT FALL TOO SOON!
DENY ME NOT MY VENGEANCE!
THINE HEART STILL BEATS...THY BLOOD STILL COURSES THRU THY VEINS!
THOU SHALT NOT REST... NOT TILL IT BE FORE'ER!!
I...TRIED TO...FIGHT YOU FAIRLY!
NOW...TO SAVE MYSELF...I MUST USE... MY DEADLY MIND-POWER...!
WITH BUT A THOUGHT, I CAN SEND GREAT BOULDERS HURTLING AT YOU!
DO WHAT THOU WILT... THE DIE IS CAST!
NOT ALL THE PLANETS SURGING FORTH COULDST HALT ME NOW!
...FOR THOU HAST CAPTURED SIF!!
12

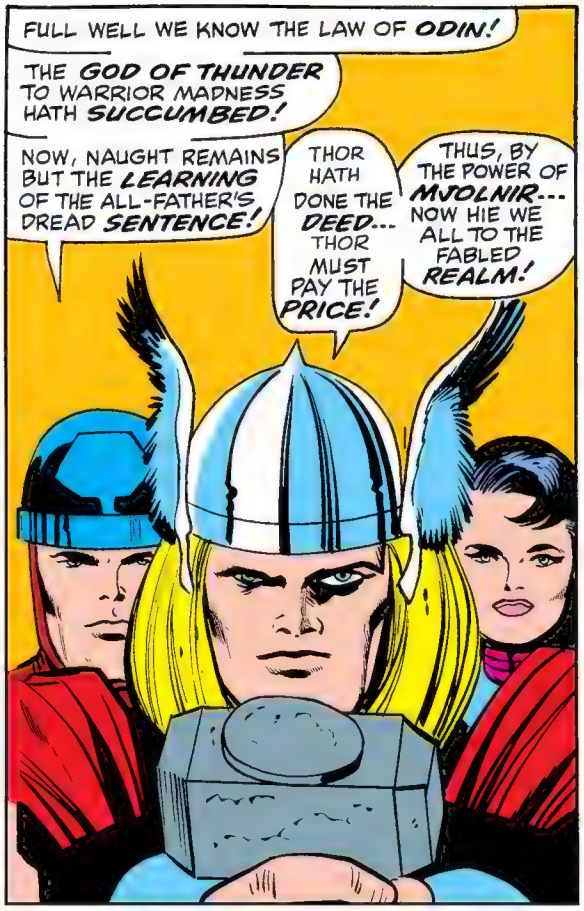

IN FIGHTING THEE---I STRIKE NOT LIVING FLESH---
THOU CANST NOT EVEN FEEL MY BLOWS!
FOR THOU WERT MADE TO KNOW NO PAIN!
BUT THE HEART OF THOR HATH BEEN PAINED MOST GRIEVOUSLY...
WHEN THOU DIDST DARE SEIZE HIS BELOVED!
SIRE! I BID THEE LOOK..!
'TIS MY SON---THE GOD OF THUNDER!
ASTROLOGER ROYAL---THOU HAST BEEN SEEKING THE ELUSIVE GALACTUS!
'TWAS MEREST CHANCE, SIRE! WHILST SCANNING DISTANT WORLDS, I SPIED THY SON!
HOW DIDST THOU FIND YON PRINCE, INSTEAD?
BUT, BY THY ROYAL LEAVE...
NEVER HAVE I SEEN HIM THUS!
THOUGH HE HATH THE LOOK OF THOR---
THERE BE A CHANGE COME O'ER HIM!
AY, ASTROLOGER! HE BE TRULY CHANGED!
NE'ER DID I THINK TO SEE THE DAY WHEN FLESH OF ODIN'S FLESH...BLOOD OF ODIN'S BLOOD WOULD SUCCUMB TO WARRIOR MADNESS!
13

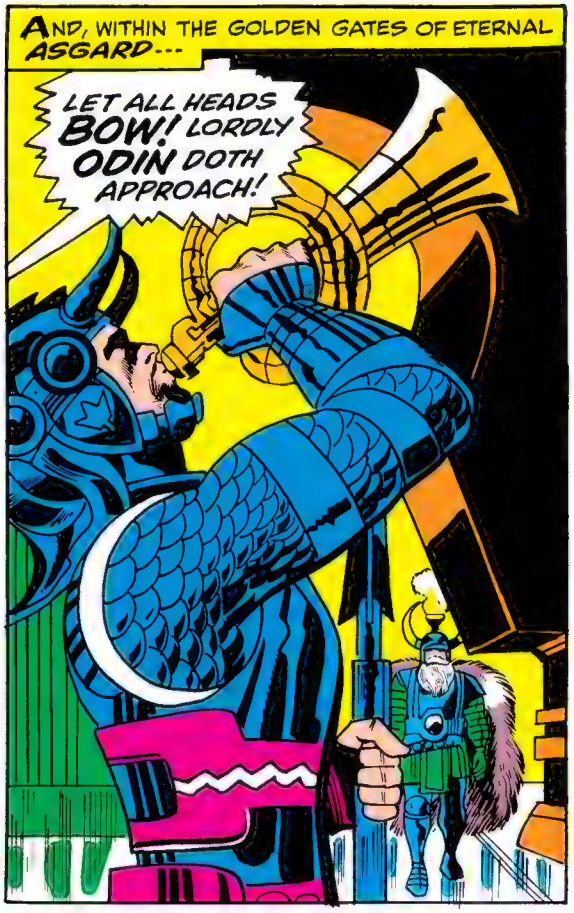

IN BATTLE FAIR, HIM WHO HATH FALLEN MUST BE GRANTED LEAVE TO MAKE SURRENDER!
ONLY THE AFFLICTION OF WARRIOR MADNESS MAY ALTER SUCH DECISION!
WARRIOR MADNESS --- MOST FORBIDDEN MALADY OF ALL!
ANY WHO BE GUILTY OF WARRIOR MADNESS MUST PAY THE PENALTY!
YEA--- EVEN IF HE BE SON OF ALL-FATHER ODIN!
AND, EVEN AS REGAL ODIN SPEAKS--


WHAT??! KNOWING THY BATTLE HATH BEEN LOST...
THOU SEEKEST SHELTER WITHIN YON SWIFTLY-FORMING COCOON!
NAY! THOR WILL NOT BE CHEATED!
BUT, NOT E'EN THE POWER OF THE THUNDER GOD CAN TEAR THY SHEATH APART!
'TIS FULLY FORMED... THOU ART TOTALLY ENCASED!
BUT NOW... WHAT AWESOME BOLTS OF ENERGY DO BURST FROM THY COCOON??
MINE EYES MUST CLOSE...LEST THEY BE BLINDED!
HE FLEES... HURTLING OUTWARD ...INTO SPACE!
THOR HATH BATTLE WON... BUT VICTIM LOST!
15

NOW SHIELDED FROM ALL HARM, HE FLOATS OUT BEYOND THE STARS...
THERE TO DRIFT... FOR AN HOUR... OR AN AGE...
...TILL THE COCOON DOTH OPEN ONCE AGAIN!!
BUT, WHY DOTH MY HEAD IN THIS MANNER ACHE??
WHAT HEAVY CLOUD SEEMS SUDDEN LIFTED FROM UPON MY TROUBLED BRAIN?
IT CANNOT BE... IT MUST NOT BE...
AND YET, I KNOW THE TRUTH OF IT...
THE WARRIOR MADNESS HATH POSSESSED ME!
I STRUCK IN UNREASONING ANGER... I HEEDED NOT.. I PITIED NOT...
LESS WORTHY THAN MY FOE WAS I!
AT THAT FATEFUL INSTANT, WITH THE POWER OF HIM NOW VANISHED...
THE AERO-SPHERE DRIFTS SILENTLY TO THE GROUNDS BELOW...
MY LADY SIF... THOU ART SAFE AND WELL!
THUS, I DID NOT FIGHT IN VAIN!
16

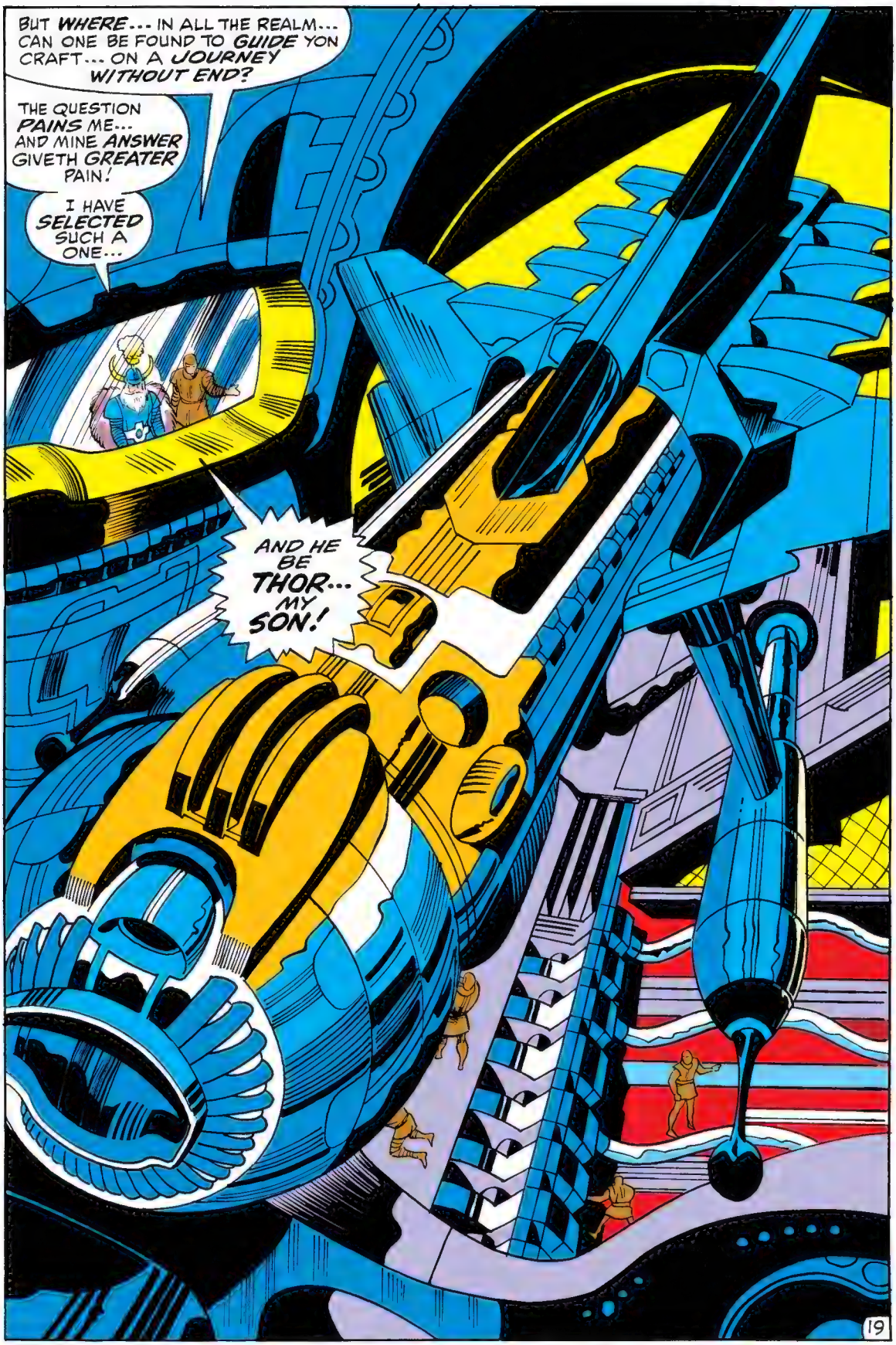
THE SPHERE HATH FADED! THOU ART TRULY FREE ONCE MORE!
BUT WHAT OF THEE, MY LORD?
WHAT MONUMENTAL INJUSTICE HATH THOU UNWITTINGLY WROUGHT?
HIM, WHO DIDST CAPTURE ME, DID BUT ACT IN HAPLESS INNOCENCE!
NEVER HAVE I SEEN THEE SO CRUEL... SO MERCILESS... SO LACKING IN COMPASSION!
WILLINGLY, I WOULD MY LIFE LAY DOWN FOR THEE---
AND YET, THOU SPEAKETH AS THOUGH I BE MORE BRUTE THAN MAN!
'TWAS NOT THY FAULT, MY LOVE...
THE WARRIOR MADNESS WAS THEN UPON THEE!
NO MATTER WHERE THE FAULT MAY LIE!
WE ALL DO KNOW THE AWESOME PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID!
ONLY THRU MOST BITTER SACRIFICE CANST THOU ATONE FOR WARRIOR MADNESS!
MOST NOBLE FRIEND, THOU HAST HACKED THYSELF TO FREEDOM!
AYE, BUT KNOW THEE I WOULDST BE TRAPPED FOR E'ER, COULD IT BUT SAVE THEE FROM THY FATE!
OF WHAT FATE DOST THOU SPEAK, MY LORD?
17.


FULL WELL WE KNOW THE LAW OF ODIN!
THE GOD OF THUNDER TO WARRIOR MADNESS HATH SUCCUMBED!
NOW, NAUGHT REMAINS BUT THE LEARNING OF THE ALL-FATHER'S DREAD SENTENCE!
THOR HATH DONE THE DEED... THOR MUST PAY THE PRICE!
THUS, BY THE POWER OF MJOLNIR... NOW HIE WE ALL TO THE FABLED REALM!


AND, WITHIN THE GOLDEN GATES OF ETERNAL ASGARD...
LET ALL HEADS BOW! LORDLY ODIN DOTH APPROACH!

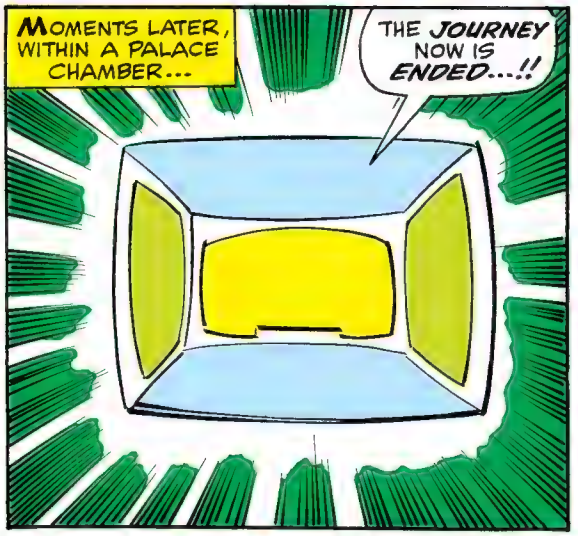
YON COSMOS-CRAFT... BE IT COMPLETED??
THE TIME HATH COME TO SEARCH THE ENDLESS HEAVENS FOR HIM WHO IS GALACTUS!
ALL AWAITS THEE NOW WITHIN, OMNI-POTENCE!

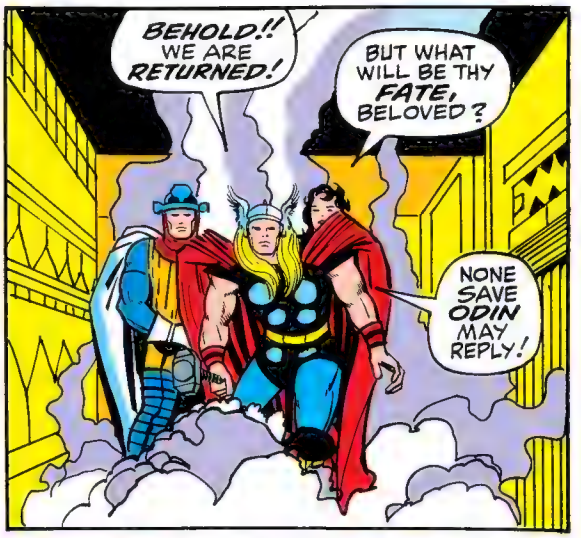
NEVER HATH THERE BEEN SUCH VESSEL, SIRE!
IT SHALL REACH BEYOND THE UNIVERSE... BEYOND THE END OF TIME!
MINE EYES BEHOLD... AND FIND IT GOOD!


BUT WHERE... IN ALL THE REALM... CAN ONE BE FOUND TO GUIDE YON CRAFT... ON A JOURNEY WITHOUT END?
THE QUESTION PAINS ME... AND MINE ANSWER GIVETH GREATER PAIN!
I HAVE SELECTED SUCH A ONE...
AND HE BE THOR... MY SON!

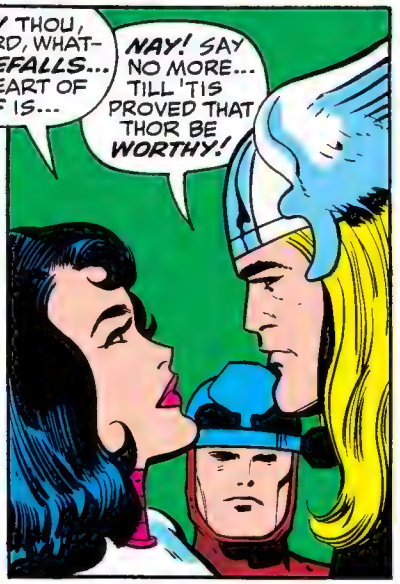
THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH FALLEN PREY TO THE FORBIDDEN WARRIOR MADNESS!

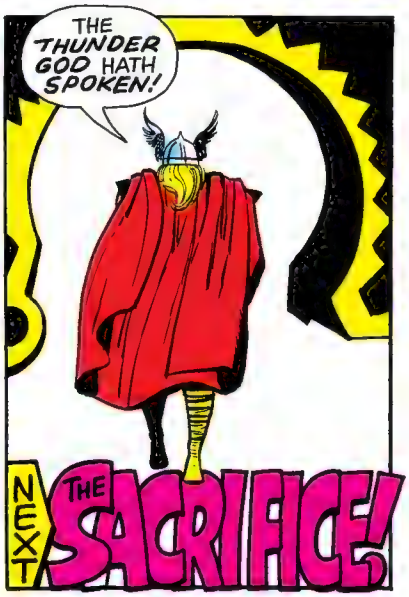
AND ONLY THROUGH SACRIFICE... SUCH AS THIS... CANST HE ACHIEVE REDEMPTION!
THUS SPEAKS ODIN!


MOMENTS LATER, WITHIN A PALACE CHAMBER...
THE JOURNEY NOW IS ENDED...!!


BEHOLD!! WE ARE RETURNED!
BUT WHAT WILL BE THY FATE, BELOVED?
NONE SAVE ODIN MAY REPLY!

NOW GO I INTO THE PRESENCE!
WHAT AWAITS ME NOW, MUST BE FACED BY THOR ALONE!


KNOW THOU, MY LORD, WHATE'ER BEFALLS... THE HEART OF SIF IS...
NAY! SAY NO MORE... TILL 'TIS PROVED THAT THOR BE WORTHY!


THE THUNDER GOD HATH SPOKEN!
NEXT THE SACRIFICE!

THOR
15¢
IND.
167
AUG
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
ROMITA
THIS WORLD RENOUNCED

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
THIS WORLD RENOUNCED!
THUNDER GOD! APPROACH THEE THE PRESENCE!
WHATE'ER DREAD PUNISHMENT MY ROYAL FATHER MAY DECREE--
THOR SHALL FACE IT-- LIKE A GOD!
BY STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
VINCENT J. COLLETTA, EMBELLISHMENT
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERING
THE PLACE: ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS!
THE TIME: THE ETERNAL PRESENT!
THE OFFING: SHEER, SPELLBINDING SPECTACLE, SUCH AS THINE EYES HAVE NE'ER BEHELD--!

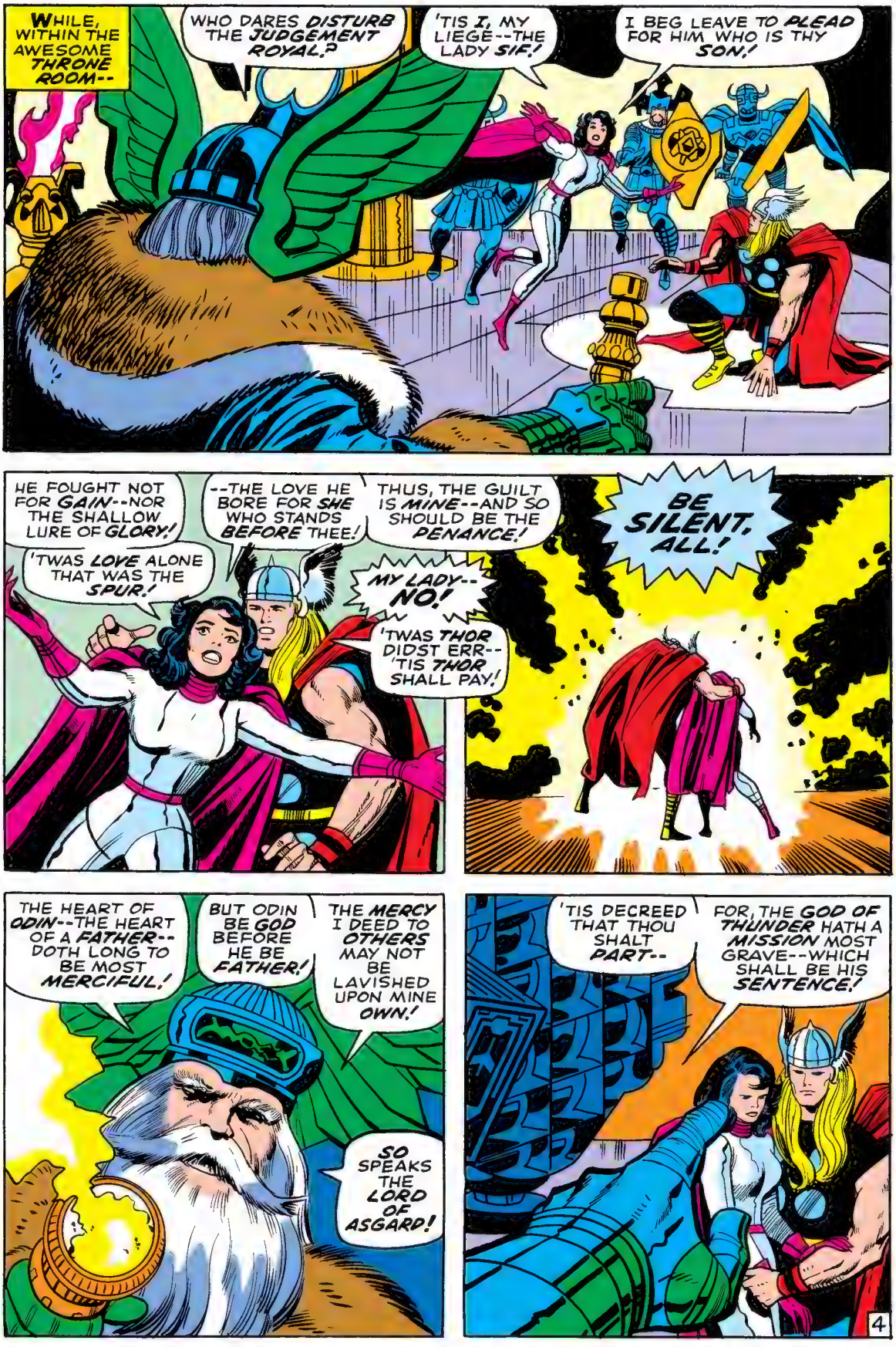
ROYAL TRANSGRESSOR --STAND THEE FORTH!
THOU HAST COMMITTED THE SIN UNPARDONABLE!
WHEN LAST THOU BATTLED-- THOU WERT OVERCOME BY WARRIOR MADNESS!
THY HAMMER STRUCK NOT FOR JUSTICE ALONE! THOU DIDST FIGHT FOR BASE REVENGE!
FLESH OF MY FLESH, WHAT SAYETH THEE?
THY SON PLEADS GUILTY, SIRE!
THEN PRISONER, ON THY KNEES!
POWER--SUCH AS THINE--MAY NE'ER BE USED IN WANTON WRATH!
WHERE MAN MAY ERR --A GOD MAY NOT!
ONLY THRU SACRIFICE CANST THOU BE ABSOLVED OF THY MONUMENTAL GUILT!
AND, THOUGH THOR BE TRULY HEART OF MY HEART--
SACRIFICE SHALT THOU MAKE!
NO! NO! IT IS NOT FAIR!
'TWAS FOR ME HE DID IT!
BE SILENT, SIF! THE ALL-FATHER SPEAKS!
2

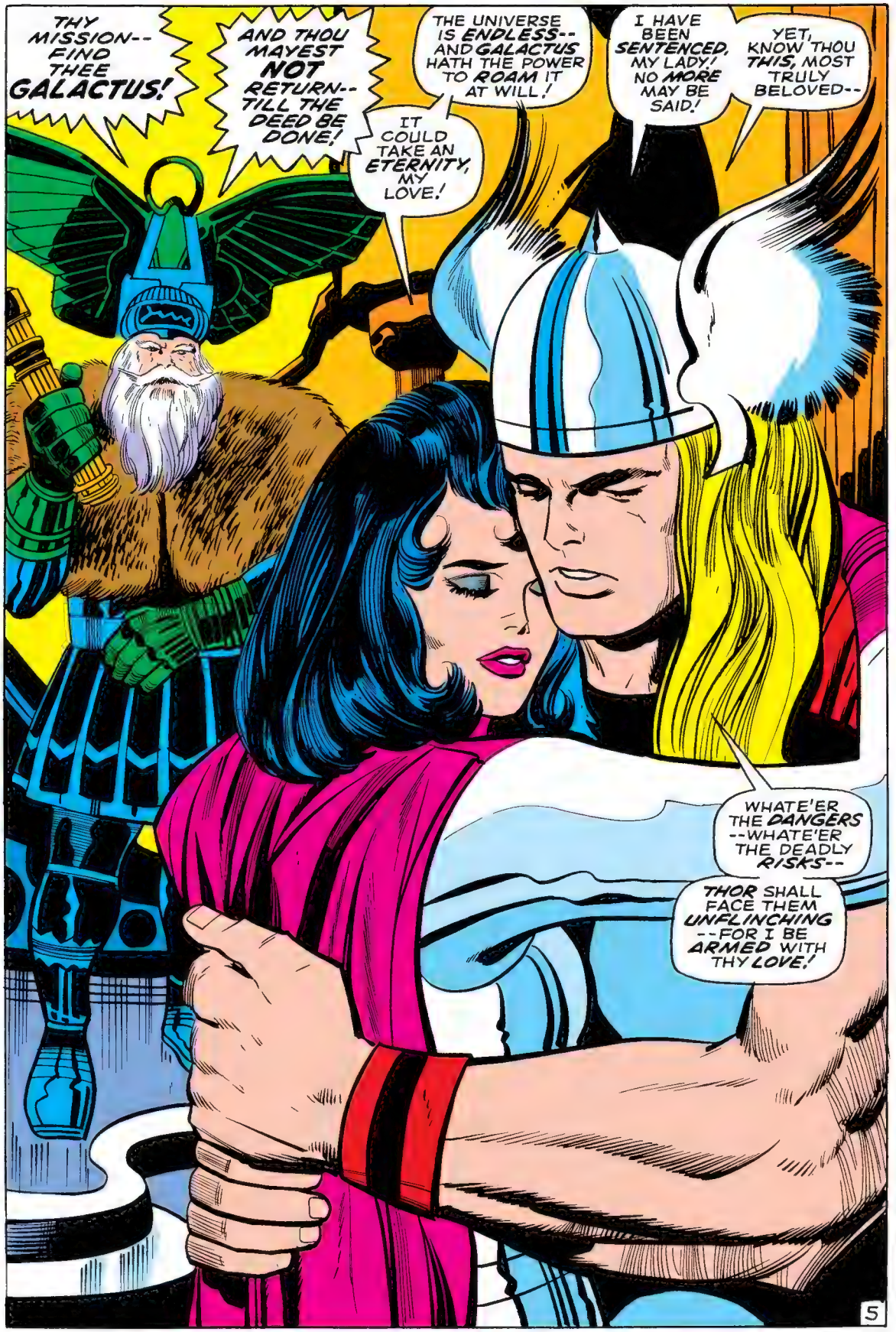
BUT--WHAT HE DID--'TWAS DONE FOR LOVE ALONE--FOR LOVE OF ME, HIS LADY!
NOW STANDS HE CONDEMNED--BECAUSE A GOD DARED ACT--WITH THE HEART OF A MAN!
CONTENT THYSELF WITH THIS, FAIR SIF--THOUGH ODIN BE STERN--HE BE LIKE-WISE JUST!
THOR SHALL PROVE EQUAL TO HIS FATE!
AND YET--WHILE HE PAYS PENANCE--EARTH SHALL BE UNGUARDED!
BUT NOT WHILST BALDER LIVES!

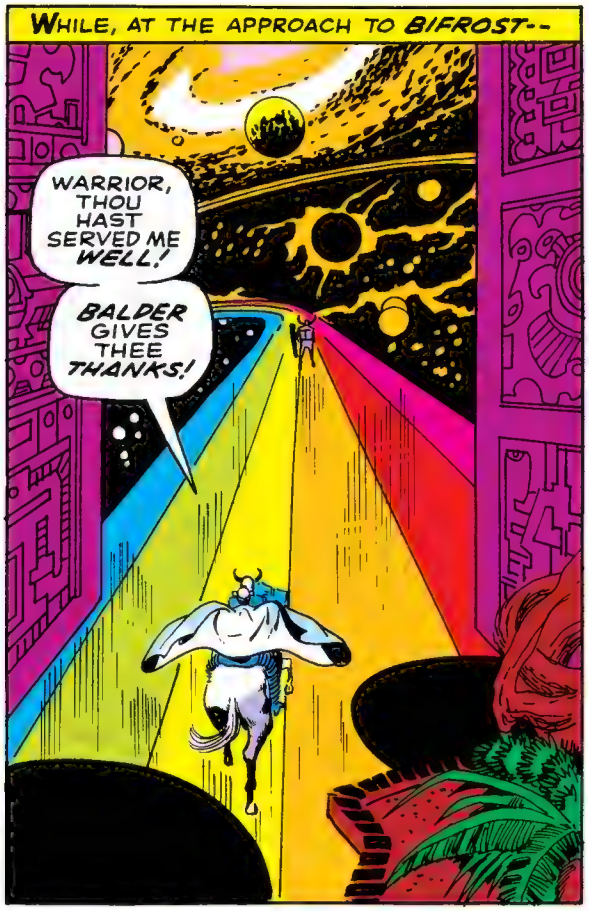
AS THOR IS MY FRIEND--SO SHALL BALDER BE HIS STAUNCH RIGHT ARM!
GRANT ME PASSAGE UPON THY STEED--FOR I GO TO THE RAINBOW BRIDGE!
WARRIOR, HO! THY FELLOW CRAVES A BOON!
WHILST I, LOYAL FRIEND, MUST REJOIN THE PRINCE I LOVE!

WE SERVE HIM BEST WHO SERVE IN OUR OWN WAY!
GODSPEED, BRAVE BALDER!
FAREWELL, MY LADY--TILL WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!
WHATE'ER BEFALLS, OUR FAITH MUST NOT FALTER--OUR HOPE MUST NOT DIE!

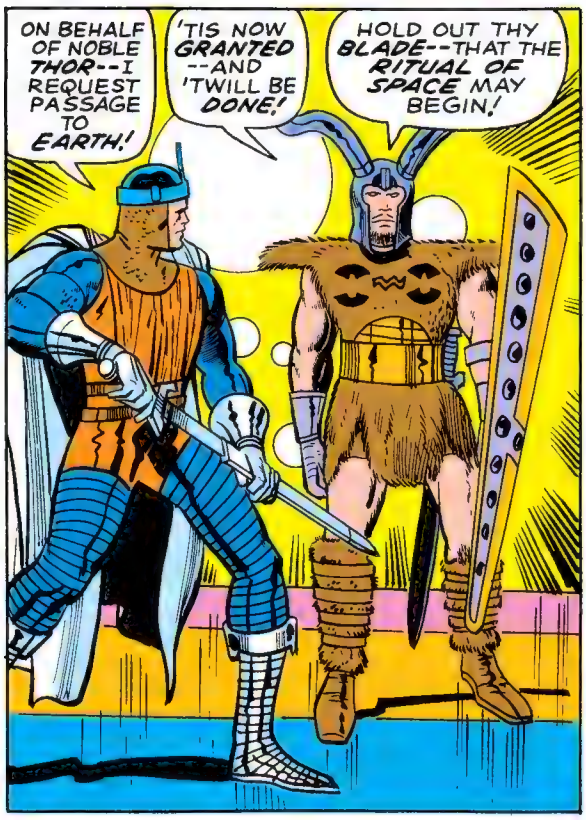
FRIEND OF THOR, WHERE GOEST THOU?
MY GOAL IS BIFROST, THE RAINBOW BRIDGE--WHERE EVER STANDETH HEIMDALL!
FROM THENCE--TO EARTH I FLY!

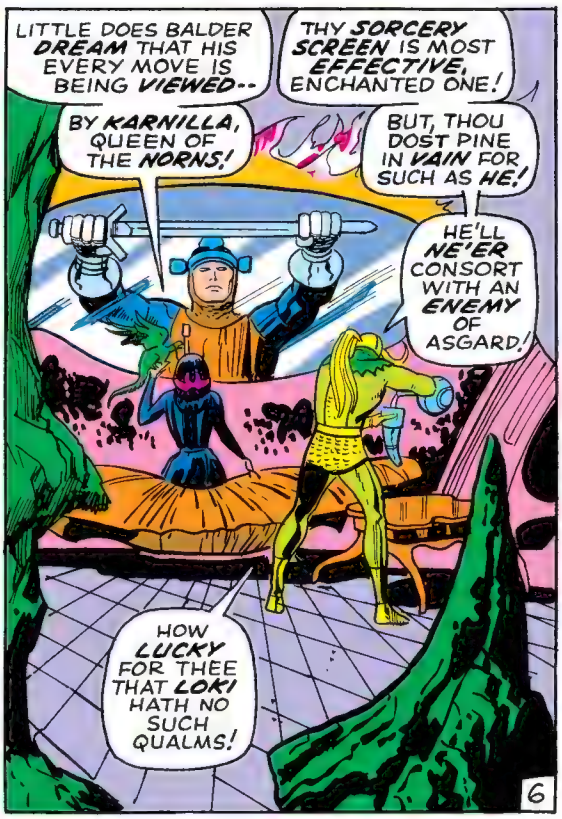

WHILE, WITHIN THE AWESOME THRONE ROOM--
WHO DARES DISTURB THE JUDGEMENT ROYAL?
'TIS I, MY LIEGE--THE LADY SIF!
I BEG LEAVE TO PLEAD FOR HIM WHO IS THY SON!
HE FOUGHT NOT FOR GAIN--NOR THE SHALLOW LURE OF GLORY!
--THE LOVE HE BORE FOR SHE WHO STANDS BEFORE THEE!
THUS, THE GUILT IS MINE--AND SO SHOULD BE THE PENANCE!
'TWAS LOVE ALONE THAT WAS THE SPUR!
MY LADY--NO!
'TWAS THOR DIDST ERR--'TIS THOR SHALL PAY!
BE SILENT, ALL!
THE HEART OF ODIN--THE HEART OF A FATHER--DOTH LONG TO BE MOST MERCIFUL!
BUT ODIN BE GOD BEFORE HE BE FATHER!
THE MERCY I DEED TO OTHERS MAY NOT BE LAVISHED UPON MINE OWN!
SO SPEAKS THE LORD OF ASGARD!
'TIS DECREED THAT THOU SHALT PART--
FOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH A MISSION MOST GRAVE--WHICH SHALL BE HIS SENTENCE!


THY MISSION-- FIND THEE GALACTUS!
AND THOU MAYEST NOT RETURN-- TILL THE DEED BE DONE!
THE UNIVERSE IS ENDLESS-- AND GALACTUS HATH THE POWER TO ROAM IT AT WILL!
IT COULD TAKE AN ETERNITY, MY LOVE!
I HAVE BEEN SENTENCED, MY LADY! NO MORE MAY BE SAID!
YET, KNOW THOU THIS, MOST TRULY BELOVED--
WHATE'ER THE DANGERS --WHATE'ER THE DEADLY RISKS--
THOR SHALL FACE THEM UNFLINCHING --FOR I BE ARMED WITH THY LOVE!
5

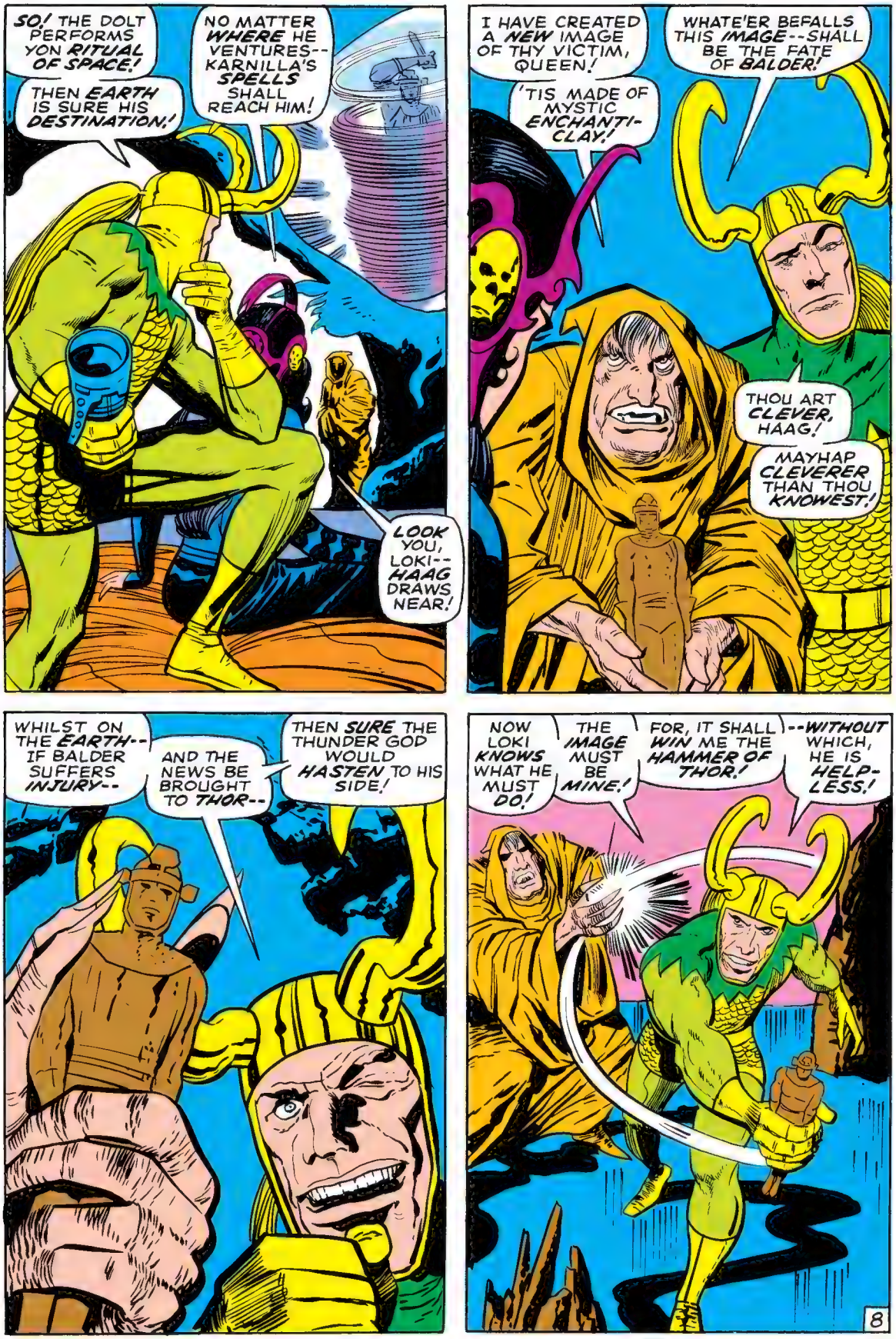

WHILE, AT THE APPROACH TO BIFROST--
WARRIOR, THOU HAST SERVED ME WELL!
BALDER GIVES THEE THANKS!

WHAT HO, STALWART HEIMDALL!
I CRAVE THY LEAVE TO STRIDE YON BRIDGE!
THEN, LET BALDER ADVANCE--
THE GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE DOTH CALL THEE FRIEND!

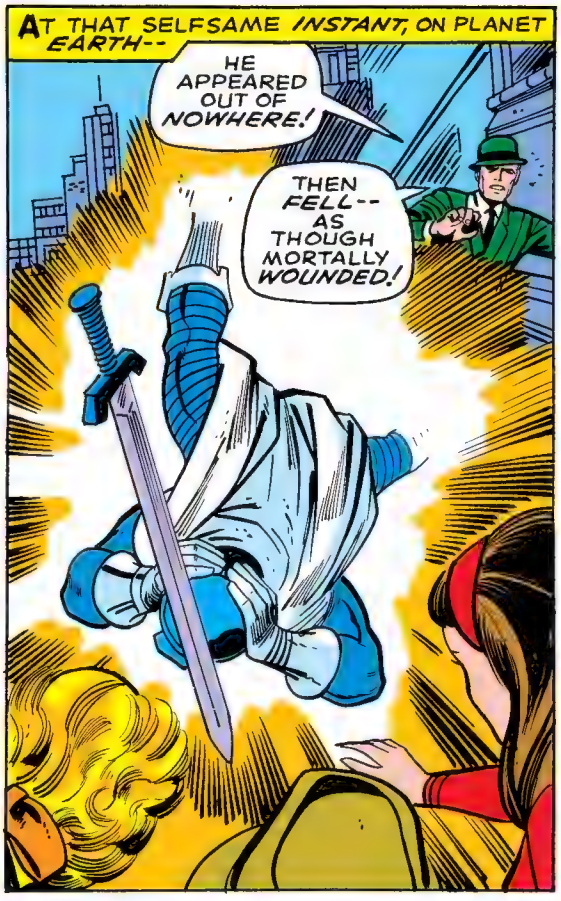

ON BEHALF OF NOBLE THOR--I REQUEST PASSAGE TO EARTH!
'TIS NOW GRANTED --AND 'TWILL BE DONE!
HOLD OUT THY BLADE--THAT THE RITUAL OF SPACE MAY BEGIN!


LITTLE DOES BALDER DREAM THAT HIS EVERY MOVE IS BEING VIEWED--
THY SORCERY SCREEN IS MOST EFFECTIVE, ENCHANTED ONE!
BY KARNILLA, QUEEN OF THE NORNS!
BUT, THOU DOST PINE IN VAIN FOR SUCH AS HE!
HE'LL NE'ER CONSORT WITH AN ENEMY OF ASGARD!
HOW LUCKY FOR THEE THAT LOKI HATH NO SUCH QUALMS!

WHY SQUANDER THINE ENERGIES ON INCORRUPTABLE BALDER?
THOU ART MEANT FOR GREATER THINGS!
--SUCH AS ONLY LOKI CAN PROVIDE!
WE BE TOO MUCH ALIKE, MY PRINCE!
PERHAPS 'TIS BALDER'S INNOCENCE--HIS HONOR, YET UNTARNISHED--THAT FINDS FAVOR IN MINE EYES!
BUT, KNOW YOU THIS--IF HE BE NOT MINE...
NO OTHER ONE SHALL HAVE HIM!

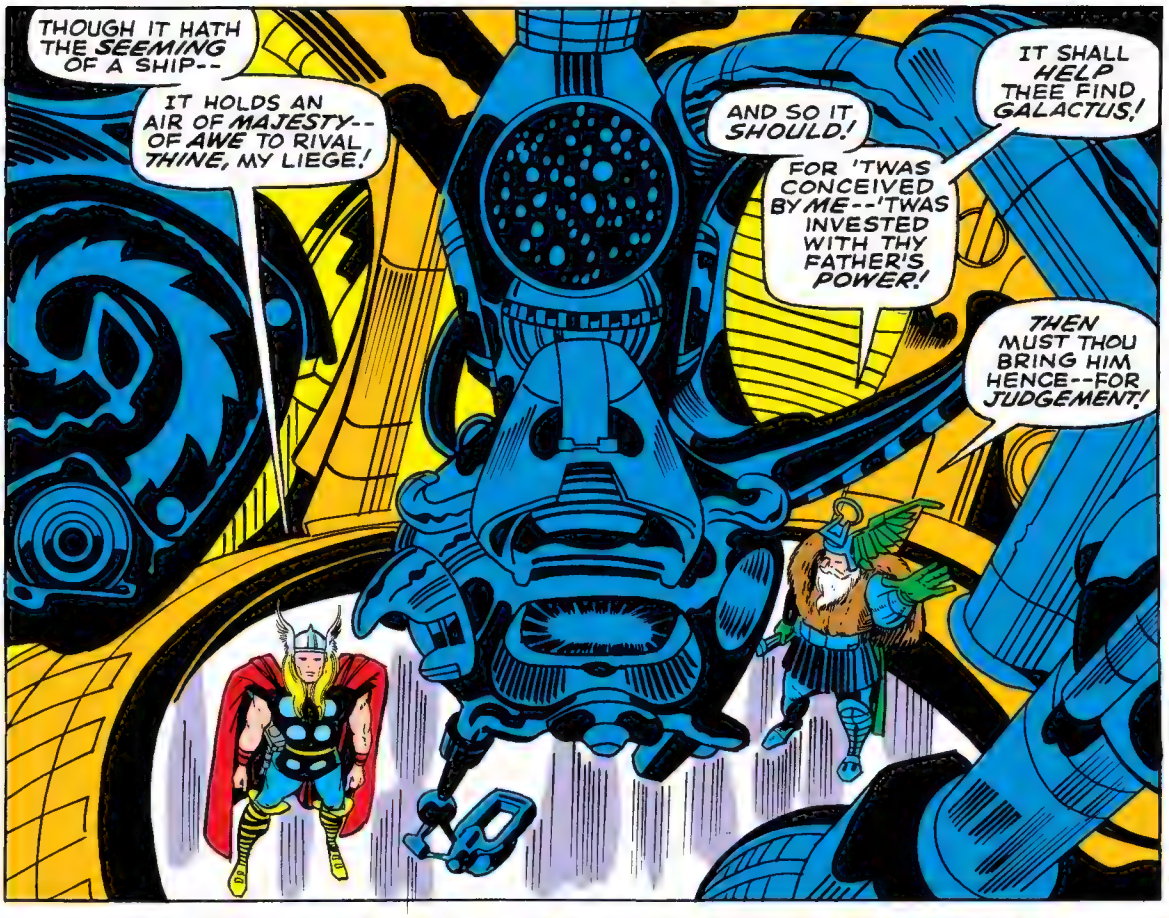

SO! THE DOLT PERFORMS YON RITUAL OF SPACE!
THEN EARTH IS SURE HIS DESTINATION!
NO MATTER WHERE HE VENTURES--KARNILLA'S SPELLS SHALL REACH HIM!
LOOK YOU, LOKI--HAAG DRAWS NEAR!
I HAVE CREATED A NEW IMAGE OF THY VICTIM, QUEEN!
'TIS MADE OF MYSTIC ENCHANTI-CLAY!
WHATE'ER BEFALLS THIS IMAGE--SHALL BE THE FATE OF BALDER!
THOU ART CLEVER, HAAG!
MAYHAP CLEVERER THAN THOU KNOWEST!
WHILST ON THE EARTH--IF BALDER SUFFERS INJURY--
AND THE NEWS BE BROUGHT TO THOR--
THEN SURE THE THUNDER GOD WOULD HASTEN TO HIS SIDE!
NOW LOKI KNOWS WHAT HE MUST DO!
THE IMAGE MUST BE MINE!
FOR, IT SHALL WIN ME THE HAMMER OF THOR!
--WITHOUT WHICH, HE IS HELP-LESS!
8

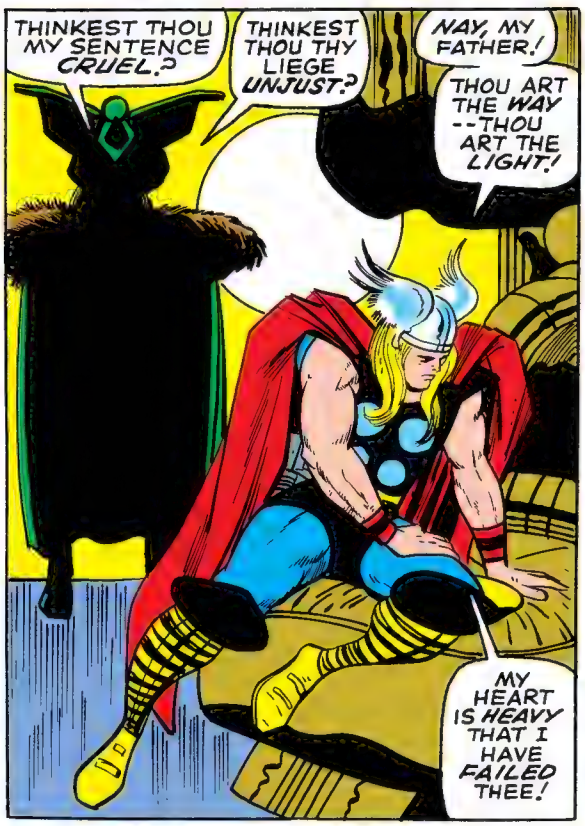
LET ALL STAND BACK WHILST LOKI STRIKES!
WHEN VILLAINY BE WANTED--'TIS I WHO AM ITS MASTER!
AND SO, 'TIS DONE! LET THE DRAMA NOW UNFOLD--!


AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT, ON PLANET EARTH--
HE APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE!
THEN FELL-- AS THOUGH MORTALLY WOUNDED!

WHO IS HE? WHAT HAPPENED?
WE'LL WRITECHA A LETTER, MISTER!
SEND FOR AN AMBULANCE!
HE'S HURT REAL BAD!

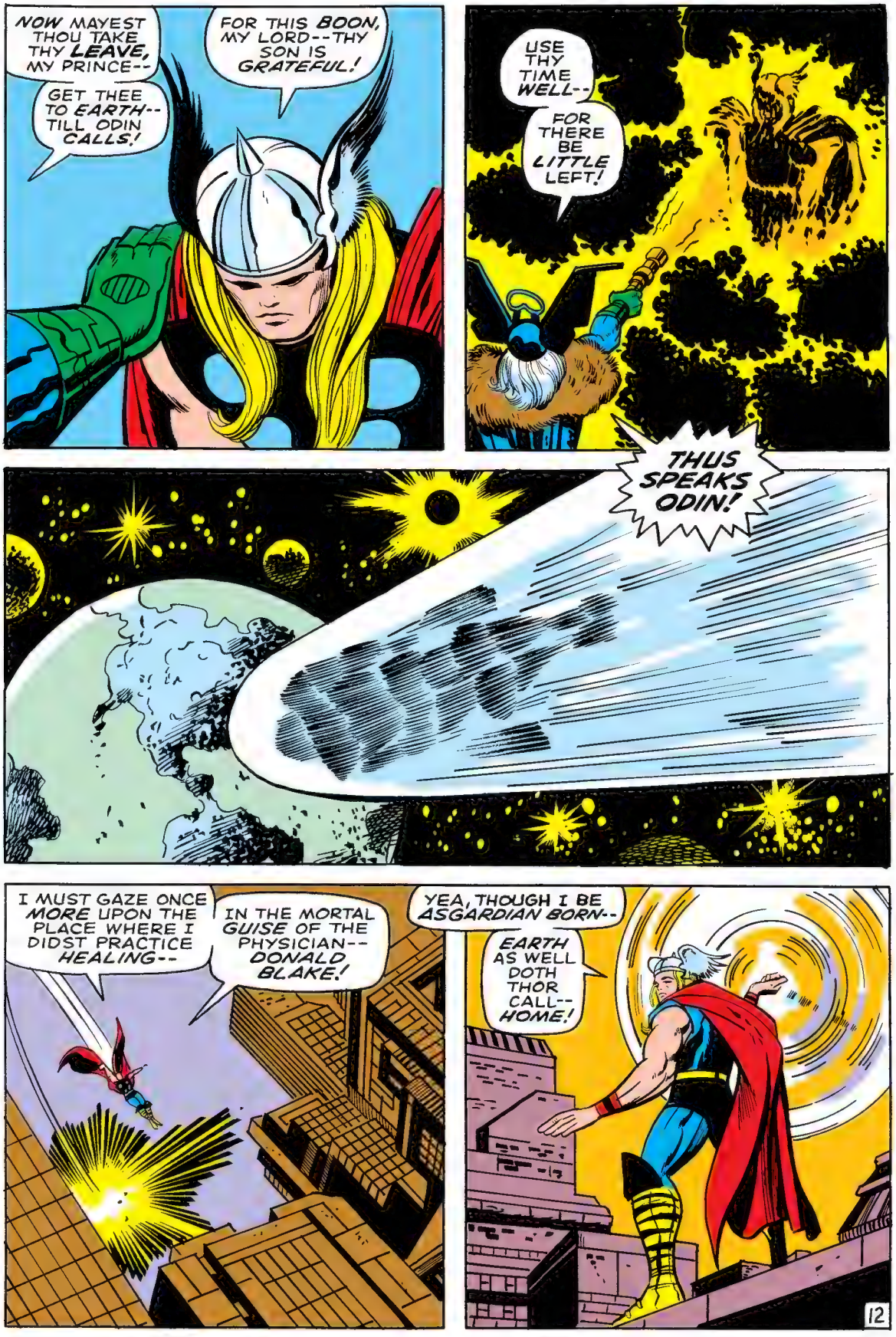
MEANWHILE, BACK WITHIN THE FABLED REALM--
I BRING THEE NOW TO THE SHIP OF SHIPS!
THOUGH CREATED IN THE SHAPE OF A SPACECRAFT--
'TIS FAR, FAR MORE-- AS THOU SHALT SEE!
FOR, 'TWILL BE THY LINK WITH-- INFINITY!

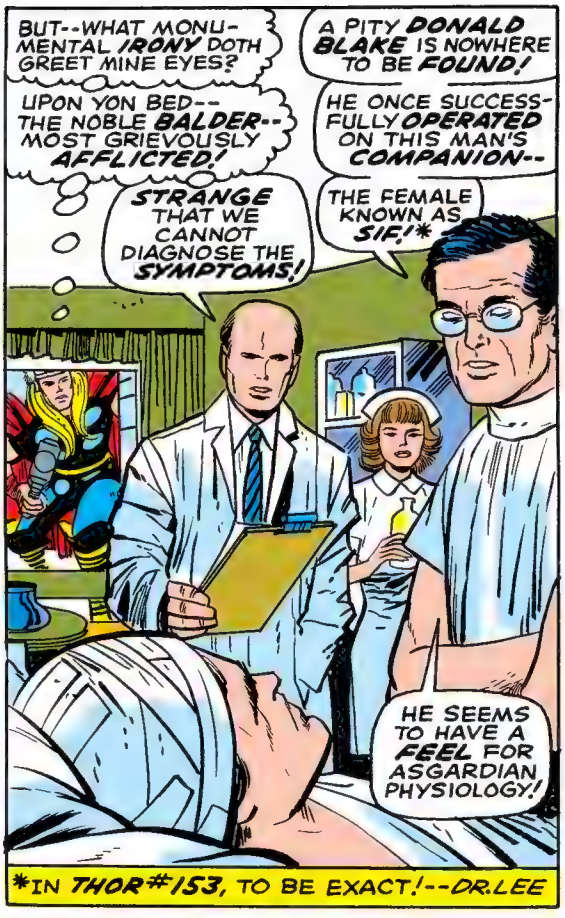

THOUGH IT HATH THE SEEMING OF A SHIP--
IT HOLDS AN AIR OF MAJESTY--OF AWE TO RIVAL THINE, MY LIEGE!
AND SO IT SHOULD!
FOR 'TWAS CONCEIVED BY ME--'TWAS INVESTED WITH THY FATHER'S POWER!
IT SHALL HELP THEE FIND GALACTUS!
THEN MUST THOU BRING HIM HENCE--FOR JUDGEMENT!


THINKEST THOU MY SENTENCE CRUEL?
THINKEST THOU THY LIEGE UNJUST?
NAY, MY FATHER!
THOU ART THE WAY --THOU ART THE LIGHT!
MY HEART IS HEAVY THAT I HAVE FAILED THEE!

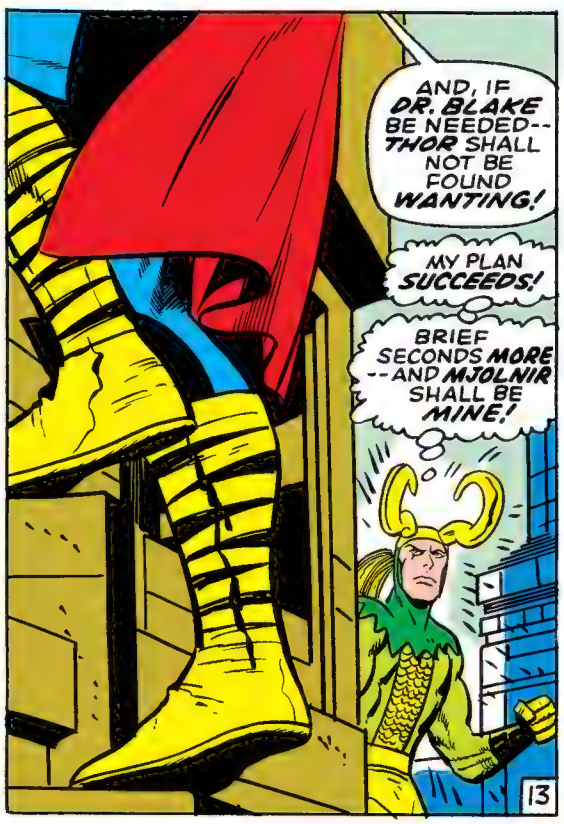
ONE BOON I CRAVE, ERE THE QUEST BEGINS!
LET ME TROD ONCE MORE THE SOIL OF EARTH--
FOR THE JOURNEY DOTH SEEM ENDLESS--AND I MAY NOT COME THIS WAY AGAIN!
I SHALL THINK UPON THY PLEA!
BUT, THERE BE ONE THING MORE--

LOOK YOU NOW-- AT ODIN'S EYE!
IT SHALL GUIDE THEE TRUE THRUOUT THE COSMOS!
WITH BUT A THOUGHT, THOU CANST COMMAND IT!
IT SHALL REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE--SIGHTS NEVER SEEN--SIGHTS OF WHICH THOU HAST NEVER DREAMED!
BUT, SUCH AS THESE ARE NOT FOR THEE!
'TIS ONLY GALACTUS THOU MUST SEEK!
THOU HAST TERMED IT PUNISHMENT!
YET, THERE BE MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE!
THOU ART KEEN, MY SON!
EVEN HAD THOR NOT SO ERRED-- THE MISSION WOULD BE THINE!
FOR THE REALM ETERNAL STANDS AT STAKE--
AND ONLY THOU CANST SAVE IT!
11


NOW MAYEST THOU TAKE THY LEAVE, MY PRINCE--
FOR THIS BOON, MY LORD--THY SON IS GRATEFUL!
GET THEE TO EARTH-- TILL ODIN CALLS!
USE THY TIME WELL--
FOR THERE BE LITTLE LEFT!
THUS SPEAKS ODIN!
I MUST GAZE ONCE MORE UPON THE PLACE WHERE I DIDST PRACTICE HEALING--
IN THE MORTAL GUISE OF THE PHYSICIAN-- DONALD BLAKE!
YEA, THOUGH I BE ASGARDIAN BORN--
EARTH AS WELL DOTH THOR CALL-- HOME!
12


BUT--WHAT MONUMENTAL IRONY DOTH GREET MINE EYES?
A PITY DONALD BLAKE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!
UPON YON BED-- THE NOBLE BALDER-- MOST GRIEVOUSLY AFFLICTED!
HE ONCE SUCCESSFULLY OPERATED ON THIS MAN'S COMPANION--
STRANGE THAT WE CANNOT DIAGNOSE THE SYMPTOMS!
THE FEMALE KNOWN AS SIF!*
HE SEEMS TO HAVE A FEEL FOR ASGARDIAN PHYSIOLOGY!

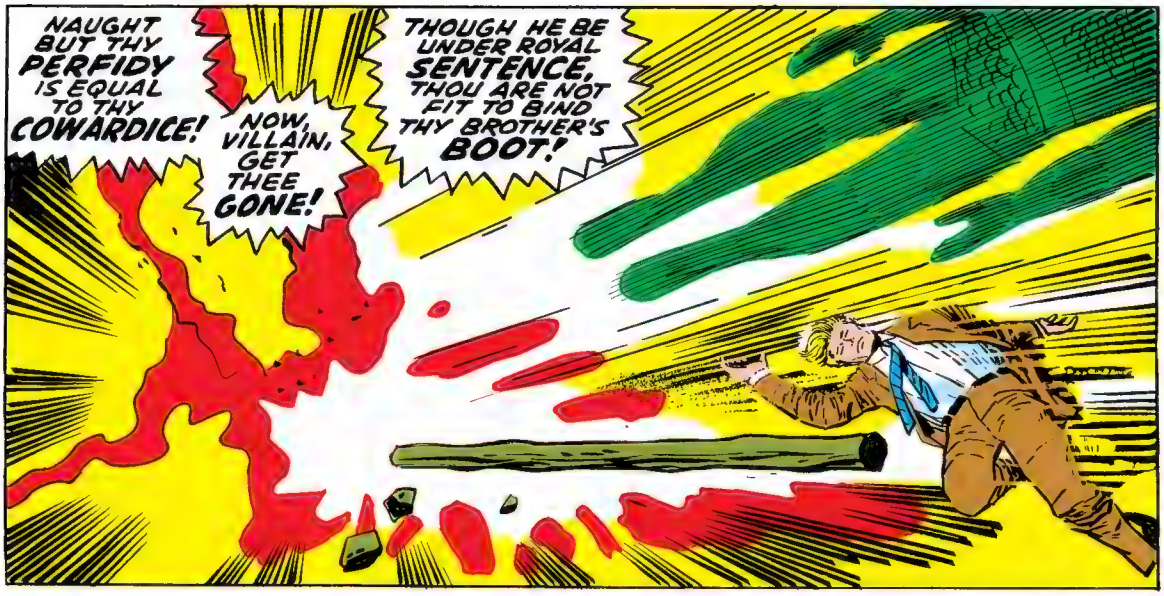
*IN THOR #153, TO BE EXACT!--DR.LEE

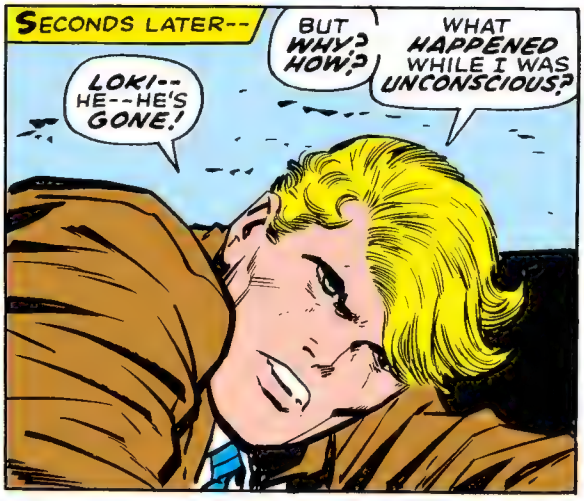


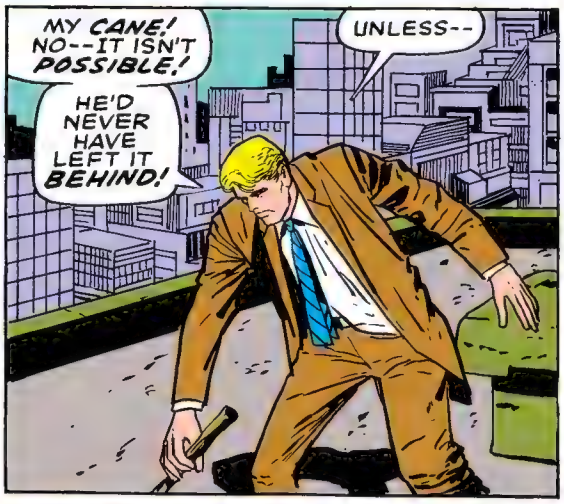
IF PHYSICIAN ALONE CANST SAVE MY FRIEND--
THEN A PHYSICIAN I SHALL BE!
HE HATH DONE WHAT LOKI PLANNED!
THUS, MIGHTY MJOLNIR SHALL BE MINE!
LOKI!
THOR IS HELPLESS NOW--AT LAST!
THY WALKING STICK! I'LL TAKE IT NOW, WEAK MORTAL!
FOR ONLY LOKI KNOWS ITS WORTH!
FOOL! THY STRUGGLES ARE IN VAIN!
FOR, NO LONGER ART THOU GOD OF THUNDER!
AND WHILST I HOLD THY MAGIC CANE--
NE'ER SHALT THOU BE AGAIN!

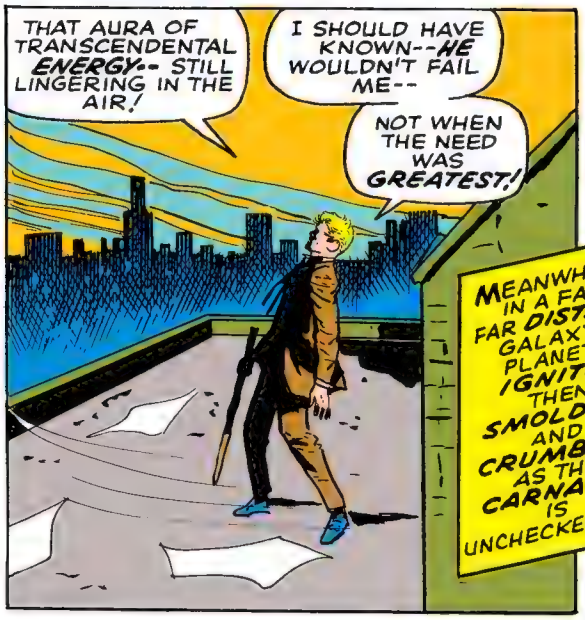
BEHOLD--'TIS MINE--FOR NOW, AND EVERMORE!
NO! NO! IT CANNOT--IT MUST NOT--FALL INTO HANDS SUCH AS YOURS!
WHAT?!! THOU DAREST ATTACK THE GOD OF EVIL?!!
A PITY THY STRENGTH CANNOT MATCH THY PRE-SUMPTION!
IN MORTAL GUISE, THOU ART BENEATH MY NOTICE!
SO, LET A SIMPLE FORCE BOLT GIVE THEE PAUSE!
15

AND NOW, FAREWELL!
I'LL CHANGE YON STICK TO MJOLNIR--
AND 'TWILL BE FOREVER MINE!
STAND FAST, IGNOBLE ONE!
THINKEST THOU TO CHANGE THE PLANS OF THINE OWN LIEGE-- TO ALTER THE FATE OF ASGARD?
ODIN!
SAY WHAT THOU WILT, SIRE--
I WON MY PRIZE IN BATTLE! I CLAIM IT FOR MY OWN!
NOT EVEN THOU MAYEST INTERFERE! SO 'TIS WRIT IN THE CODE IMPERIAL!
THOU DIDST NOT WIN IT FAIR--MINE EYES BEAR WITNESS!
AND, WRETCHED ONE, KNOW THOU THIS--
WHOMSOEVER HOLDS THE MYSTIC MJOLNIR, MUST PROBE THE COSMOS FOR GALACTUS!
GALACTUS?!!
NO! NO! NO-- NOT THAT!
16


NAUGHT BUT THY PERFIDY IS EQUAL TO THY COWARDICE!
NOW, VILLAIN, GET THEE GONE!
THOUGH HE BE UNDER ROYAL SENTENCE, THOU ARE NOT FIT TO BIND THY BROTHER'S BOOT!

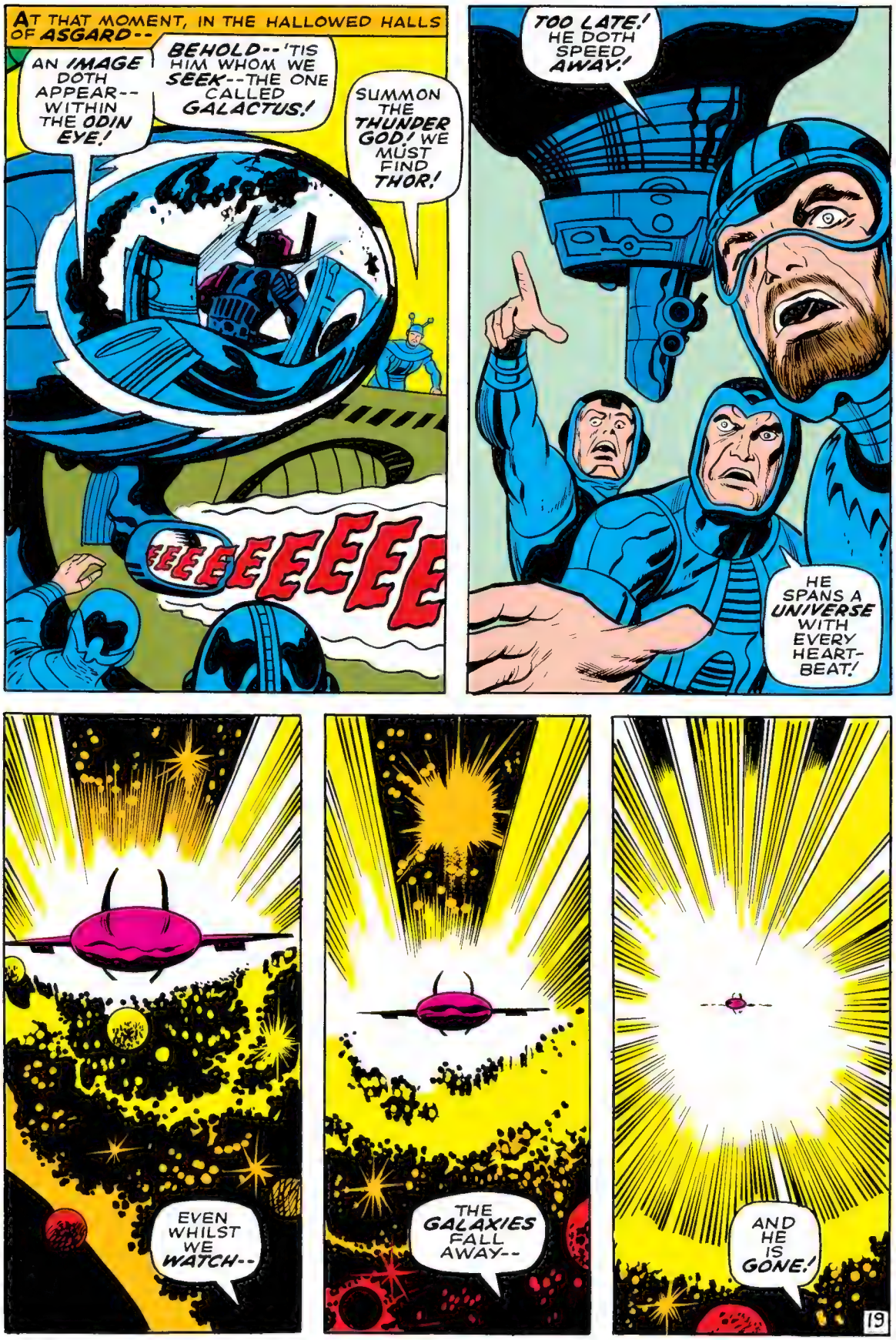

SECONDS LATER--
LOKI-- HE--HE'S GONE!
BUT WHY? HOW?
WHAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS UNCONSCIOUS?

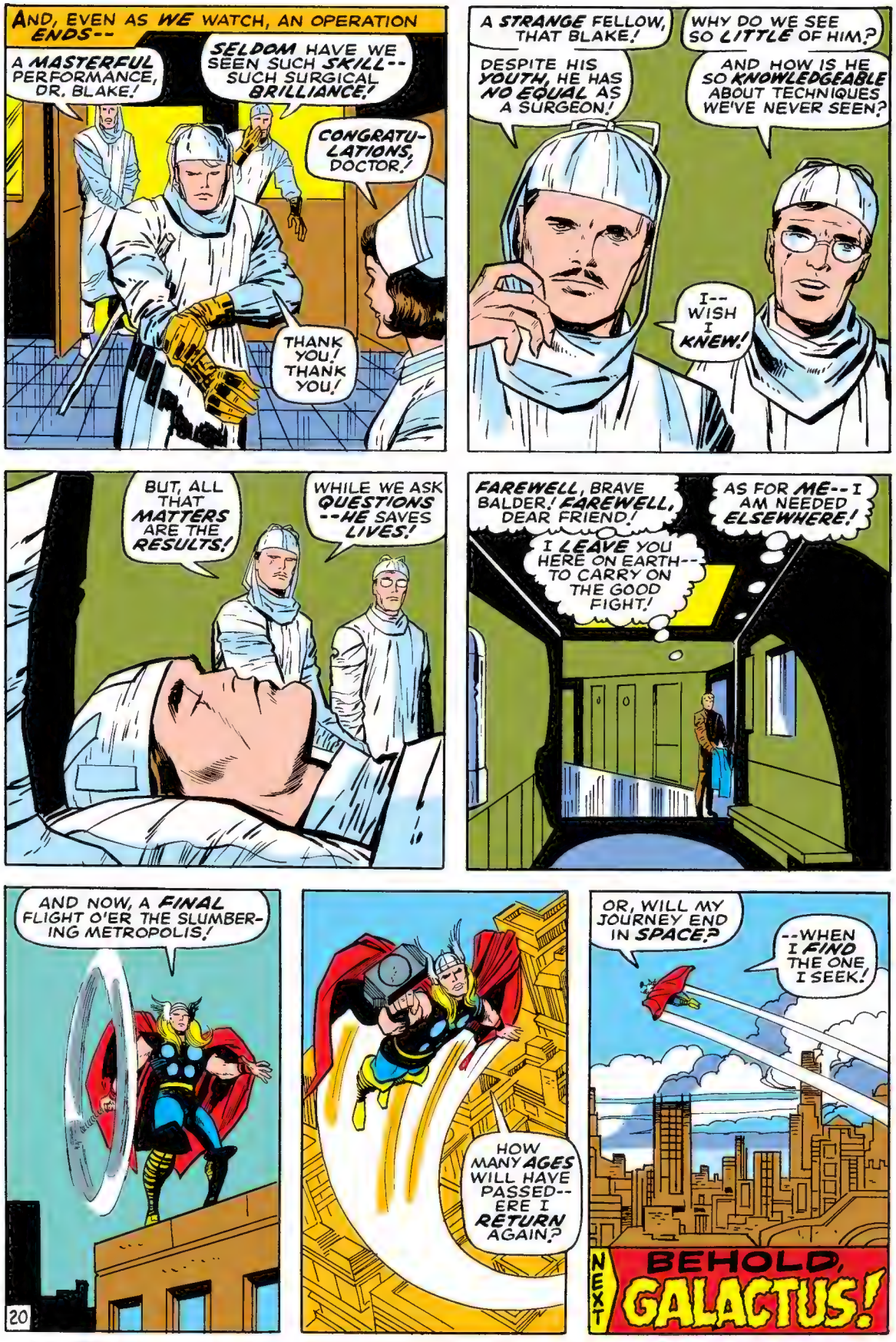

MY CANE! NO--IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
HE'D NEVER HAVE LEFT IT BEHIND!
UNLESS--


THAT AURA OF TRANSCENDENTAL ENERGY-- STILL LINGERING IN THE AIR!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN--HE WOULDN'T FAIL ME--
NOT WHEN THE NEED WAS GREATEST!

MEANWHILE, IN A FAR, FAR DISTANT GALAXY-- PLANETS IGNITE-- THEN SMOLDER-- AND CRUMBLE-- AS THE CARNAGE IS UNCHECKED--

THE PUNY SURVIVORS FLEE! I SHALL MAKE NO MOVE TO STOP THEM!
FOR I AM INDIFFERENT TO THEIR FATE!
ALL THAT CONCERNS ME IS MY ETERNAL HUNGER--
THE HUNGER WHICH CAN ONLY BE FED BY THE ENERGY OF LIVING PLANETS!
AND SO, THRUOUT THE COSMOS, WORLDS MUST DIE--
THAT GALACTUS MAY LIVE!


AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE HALLOWED HALLS OF ASGARD--
AN IMAGE DOTH APPEAR-- WITHIN THE ODIN EYE!
BEHOLD--'TIS HIM WHOM WE SEEK--THE ONE CALLED GALACTUS!
SUMMON THE THUNDER GOD! WE MUST FIND THOR!
EEEEEEEEE
TOO LATE! HE DOTH SPEED AWAY!
HE SPANS A UNIVERSE WITH EVERY HEART-BEAT!
EVEN WHILST WE WATCH--
THE GALAXIES FALL AWAY--
AND HE IS GONE!
19


AND, EVEN AS WE WATCH, AN OPERATION ENDS--
A MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE, DR. BLAKE!
SELDOM HAVE WE SEEN SUCH SKILL-- SUCH SURGICAL BRILLIANCE!
CONGRATULATIONS, DOCTOR!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
A STRANGE FELLOW, THAT BLAKE!
DESPITE HIS YOUTH, HE HAS NO EQUAL AS A SURGEON!
WHY DO WE SEE SO LITTLE OF HIM?
AND HOW IS HE SO KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT TECHNIQUES WE'VE NEVER SEEN?
I-- WISH I KNEW!
BUT, ALL THAT MATTERS ARE THE RESULTS!
WHILE WE ASK QUESTIONS --HE SAVES LIVES!
FAREWELL, BRAVE BALDER! FAREWELL, DEAR FRIEND!
I LEAVE YOU HERE ON EARTH-- TO CARRY ON THE GOOD FIGHT!
AS FOR ME-- I AM NEEDED ELSEWHERE!
AND NOW, A FINAL FLIGHT O'ER THE SLUMBERING METROPOLIS!
HOW MANY AGES WILL HAVE PASSED-- ERE I RETURN AGAIN?
OR, WILL MY JOURNEY END IN SPACE?
--WHEN I FIND THE ONE I SEEK!
NEXT! BEHOLD, GALACTUS!
20

THOR
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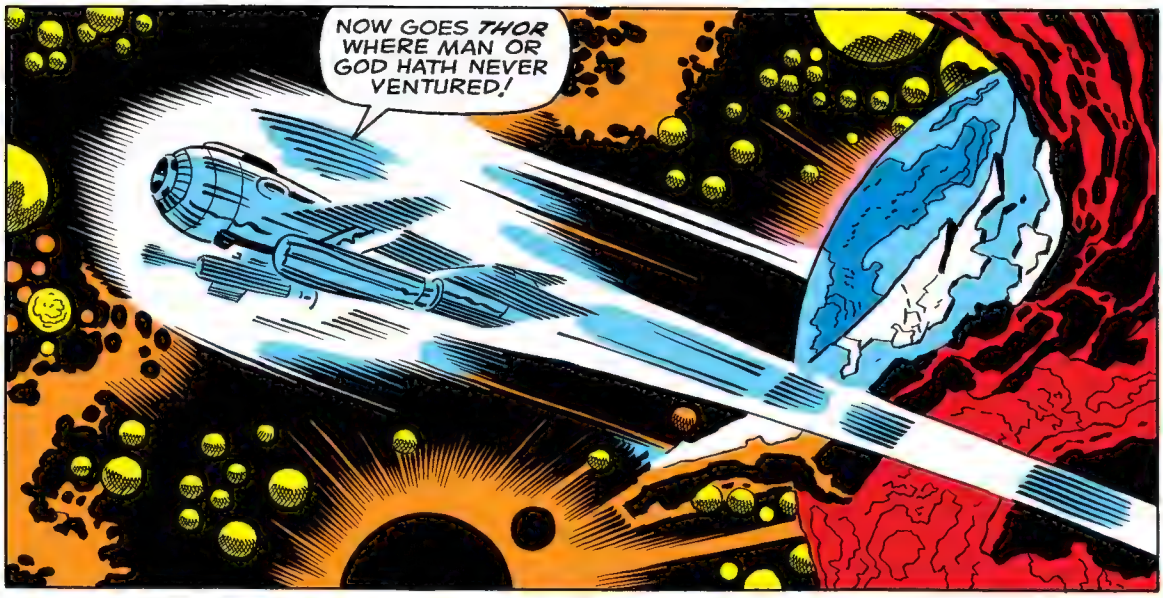
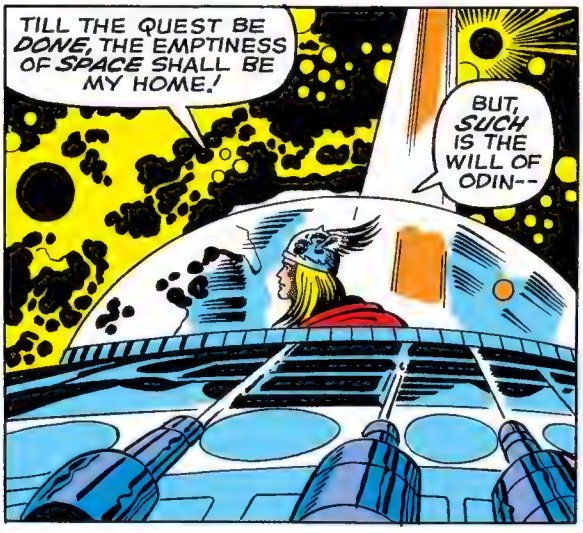
SEPT
THE MIGHTY
THOR
™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
GALACTUS FOUND!

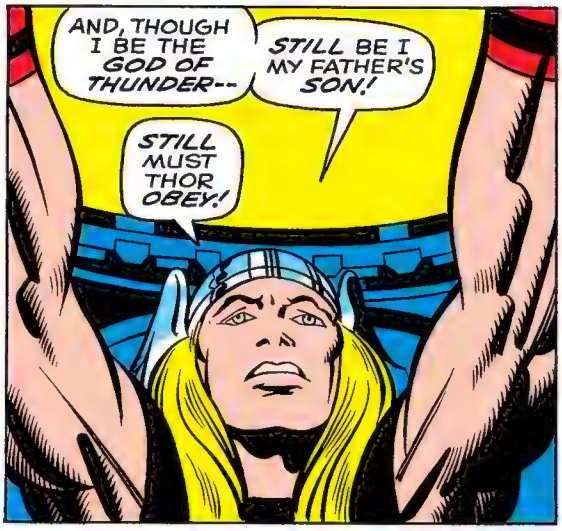
# THE MIGHTY THOR!™

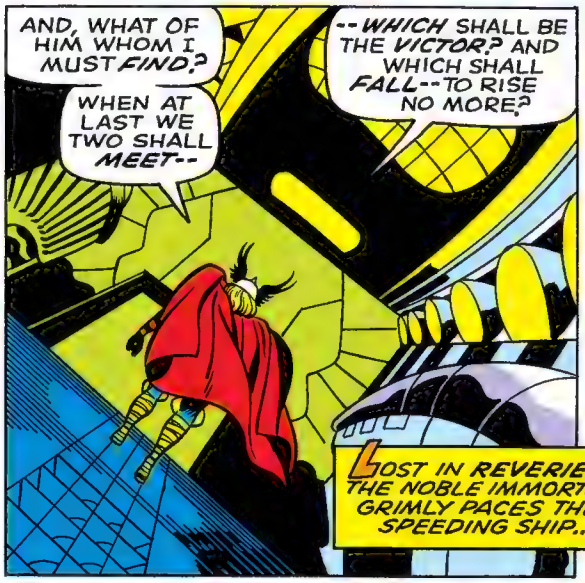
GALACTUS FOUND!
THE ENCHANTI-SCREEN IS READY FOR VIEWING, SIRE!
LO--THOR DOTH AWAIT MY FINAL COMMAND!
THUS, THE TIME HATH COME TO SPEED HIM ON HIS QUEST--IN SEARCH OF GALACTUS!
ALL HAIL THIS MOST MOMENTOUS MASTERWORK, PROUDLY PRODUCED BY:
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
EMBELLISHED BY: GEORGE KLEIN
LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK

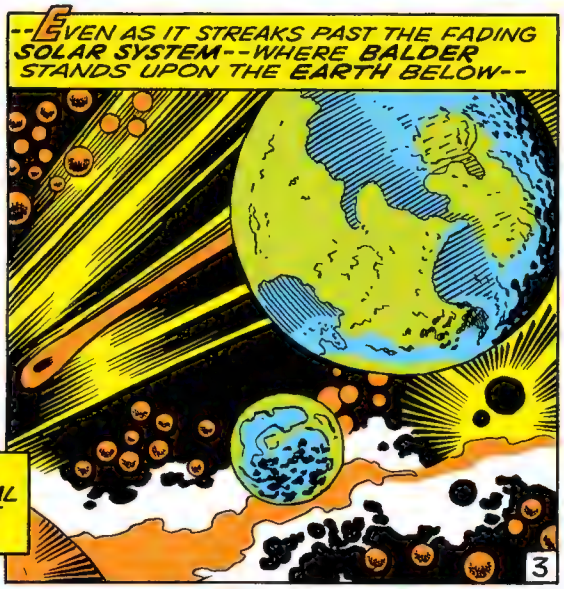
HE DOTH SENSE MINE EYES UPON HIM!
HE SITS--AND NOW AWAITS HIS FATHER'S PLEASURE!
ALAS, MY SON HATH GRAVE PENANCE TO PAY--FOR THE SIN OF WARRIOR MADNESS!
THUS, HE MUST DEPART WITHOUT CEREMONY--WITHOUT THE HERO'S FAREWELL WHICH IS HIS DUE!
SO BE IT, THEN!
IN THE NAME OF ETERNAL ASGARD--BY THE POWER ABSOLUTE WHICH IS HIS DUE!
I WILL THE ODINSHIP--DEPART!
AND SO--'TIS DONE!
MY SON HATH GONE!
GONE TO SEEK GALACTUS--WHOSE POWER DOTH CHALLENGE MINE OWN!
BLOOD OF MY BLOOD, MAY FORTUNE FIND THEE!
FOR, IF THOU SHOULDST FALL--THY FATHER'S HEART WILT WITHER, TOO!
2


NOW GOES THOR WHERE MAN OR GOD HATH NEVER VENTURED!


TILL THE QUEST BE DONE, THE EMPTINESS OF SPACE SHALL BE MY HOME!
BUT, SUCH IS THE WILL OF ODIN--

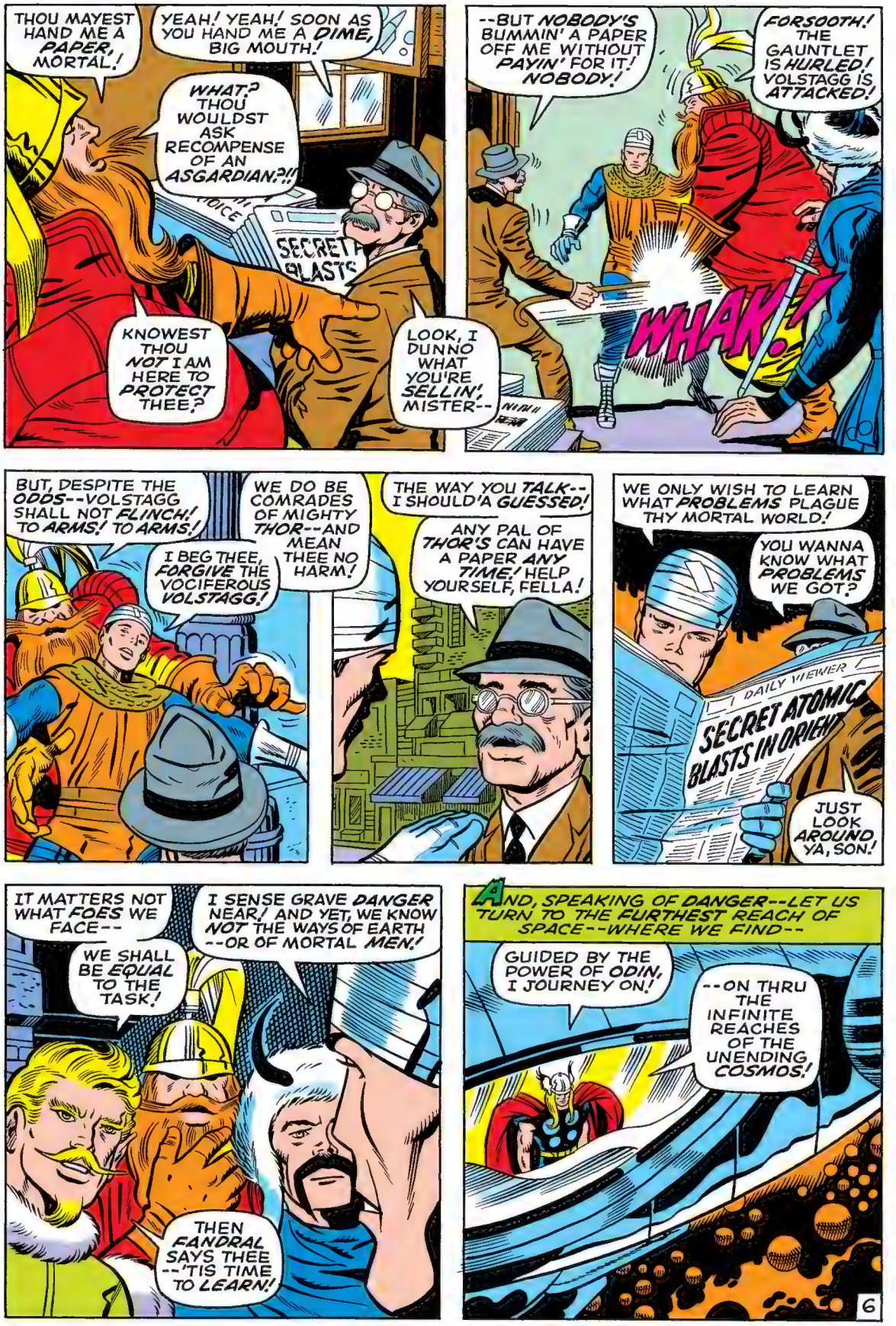

AND, THOUGH I BE THE GOD OF THUNDER--
STILL BE I MY FATHER'S SON!
STILL MUST THOR OBEY!


AND, WHAT OF HIM WHOM I MUST FIND?
WHEN AT LAST WE TWO SHALL MEET--
--WHICH SHALL BE THE VICTOR? AND WHICH SHALL FALL--TO RISE NO MORE?
LOST IN REVERIE, THE NOBLE IMMORTAL GRIMLY PACES THE SPEEDING SHIP...

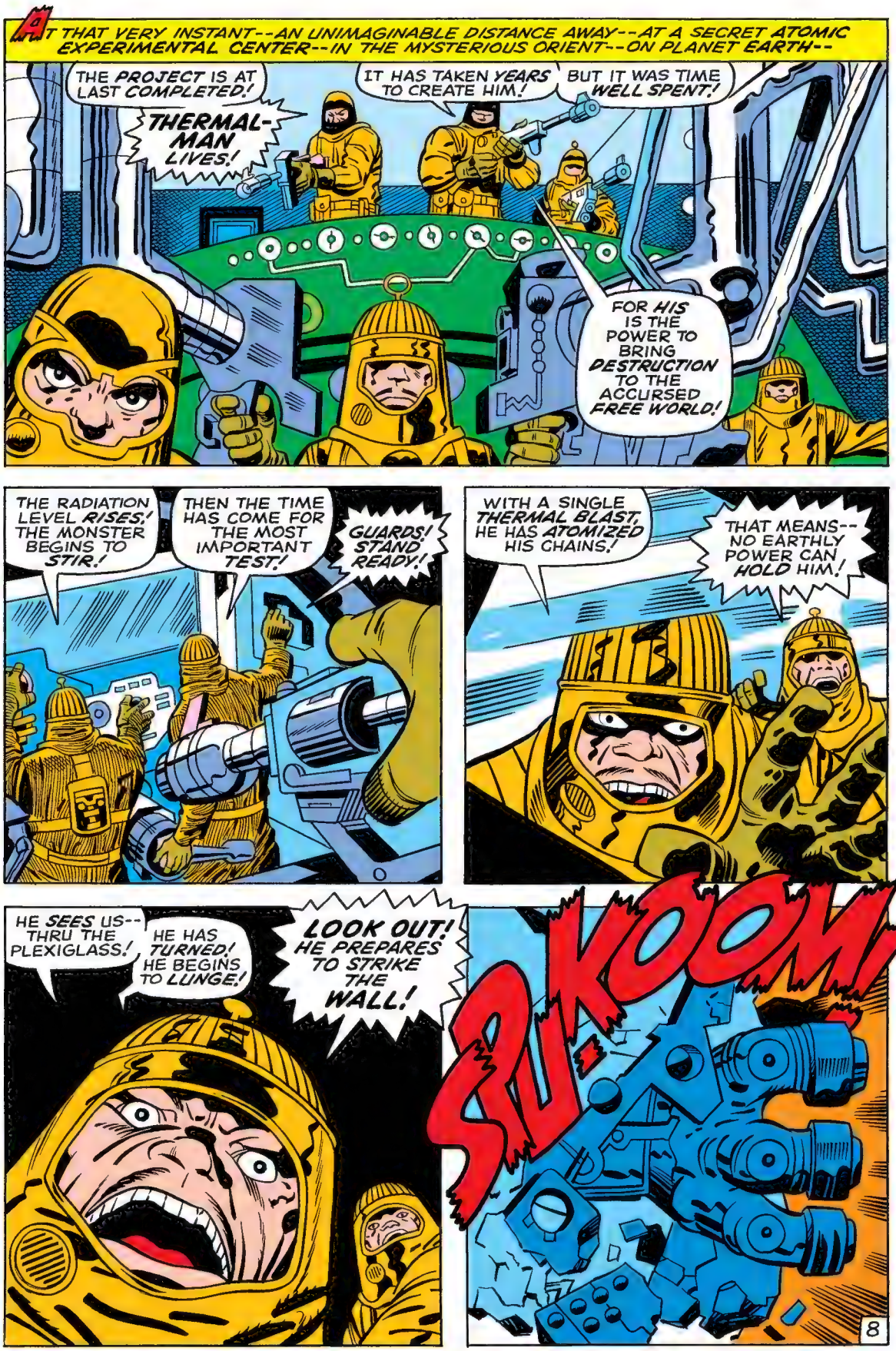

--EVEN AS IT STREAKS PAST THE FADING SOLAR SYSTEM--WHERE BALDER STANDS UPON THE EARTH BELOW--
3

IT WAS DR. BLAKE WHOM YOU HAVE TO THANK FOR SAVING YOU!
I KNOW OF NO OTHER SURGEON WHO COULD HAVE PERFORMED THE NECESSARY OPERATION!
FOR, IN LIVING TRUTH, NO OTHER SURGEON IS ALSO--GOD OF THUNDER!
'TWAS THOR HIMSELF DIDST SAVE ME!
BLAKE WAS IN A HURRY! I'VE NEVER KNOWN A MAN TO COME AND GO SO SUDDENLY!
AT ANY RATE, HE LEFT THAT MESSAGE FOR YOU!
THOUGH I FAIL TO SEE HOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DECIPHER THAT ILLEGIBLE SCRAWL!
THOUGH IT BE MEANINGLESS TO MORTAL EYES-- TO BALDER IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR!
HE HATH BEGUN THE QUEST-- BUT, IN SO DOING, LEAVES EARTH UNGUARDED!
FEAR NOT, NOBLE PRINCE! HERE, IN THY STEAD, SHALL BALDER STAND! HERE, IN THY NAME, SHALL BALDER FIGHT!
I TOLD YOU YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO READ IT!
I DON'T SEE HOW A MAN LIKE BLAKE CAN BE SO CARELESS ABOUT HIS HAND-WRITING!
THERE BE MUCH THOU DOST NOT SEE!
I THANK THEE FOR THINE ENDEAVORS IN MY BEHALF!
AND NOW MUST BALDER TAKE HIS LEAVE!
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE FRIENDS WAITING FOR YOU--IN THE ANTEROOM!
FRIENDS? IN THIS PLACE WHERE MORTALS DWELL?
4

LET BALDER SEE THEN WHO DOTH AWAIT HIM!
DEFEND THYSELF, VARLET!
FROM AROUND YON CORNER--THE THREAT OF NAKED STEEL!
HOLD, NOBLE BALDER! WE DO BUT JEST WITH THEE!
DASHING FANDRAL! HOGUN, THE GRIM! AND VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG!
DO MINE EYES DECEIVE ME?
NOT SO, ASGARDIAN!
ODIN HATH SENT US TO JOIN THEE!
AY! LET EVILDOERS TREMBLE AT THE SIGHT OF VOLSTAGG!
MY FIGHTING HEART CRAVES BATTLE! LEAD ME TO A DRAGON!
THOU KNOWEST WELL THERE BE NO DRAGONS, THOU OVERSTUFFED OAF!
WHAT THOU CRAVEST IS FOOD--NOT FIGHTING!
'TIS GOOD TO SEE THEE, ONE AND ALL!
'TWILL MAKE THE TIME PASS QUICKER!
YON MORTALS LOOK ALARMED! METHINKS THEY READ DISTURBING NEWS!
BUT, WHATE'ER MAY BE AMISS, THE VALOR OF VOLSTAGG WILL SOON PUT TO RIGHT!
LET US LEARN WHAT DOTH DISTURB THEM!
DAILY FI
CRISES IN FAR EAST!
DAILY VIEWER
SECRET ATOMIC BLASTS IN ORIENT!
5


THOU MAYEST HAND ME A PAPER, MORTAL!
YEAH! YEAH! SOON AS YOU HAND ME A DIME, BIG MOUTH!
WHAT? THOU WOULDST ASK RECOMPENSE OF AN ASGARDIAN?!!
SECRET BLASTS
KNOWEST THOU NOT I AM HERE TO PROTECT THEE?
LOOK, I DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE SELLIN', MISTER--
--BUT NOBODY'S BUMMIN' A PAPER OFF ME WITHOUT PAYIN' FOR IT! NOBODY!
FORSOOTH! THE GAUNTLET IS HURLED! VOLSTAGG IS ATTACKED!
WHAK!
BUT, DESPITE THE ODDS--VOLSTAGG SHALL NOT FLINCH! TO ARMS! TO ARMS!
I BEG THEE, FORGIVE THE VOCIFEROUS VOLSTAGG!
WE DO BE COMRADES OF MIGHTY THOR--AND MEAN THEE NO HARM!
THE WAY YOU TALK--I SHOULD'A GUESSED!
ANY PAL OF THOR'S CAN HAVE A PAPER ANY TIME! HELP YOURSELF, FELLA!
WE ONLY WISH TO LEARN WHAT PROBLEMS PLAGUE THY MORTAL WORLD!
YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT PROBLEMS WE GOT?
DAILY VIEWER
SECRET ATOMIC BLASTS IN ORIEN
JUST LOOK AROUND YA, SON!
IT MATTERS NOT WHAT FOES WE FACE--
WE SHALL BE EQUAL TO THE TASK!
I SENSE GRAVE DANGER NEAR, AND YET, WE KNOW NOT THE WAYS OF EARTH --OR OF MORTAL MEN!
THEN FANDRAL SAYS THEE --'TIS TIME TO LEARN!
AND, SPEAKING OF DANGER--LET US TURN TO THE FURTHEST REACH OF SPACE--WHERE WE FIND--
GUIDED BY THE POWER OF ODIN, I JOURNEY ON!
--ON THRU THE INFINITE REACHES OF THE UNENDING COSMOS!
6

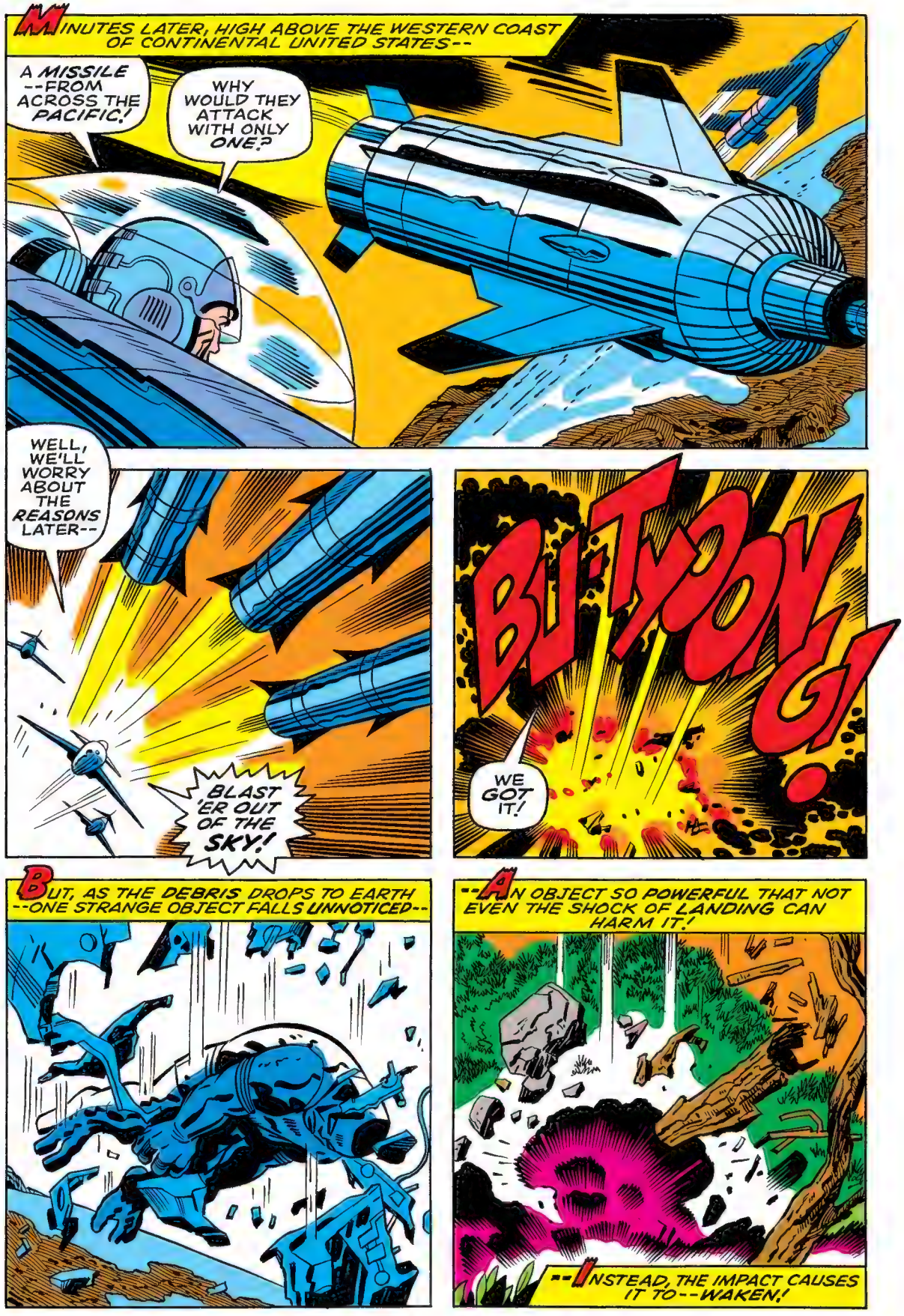
ALREADY MY HEART DOTH HUNGER FOR THE SIGHT OF SIF-- FOR THE GLORIES OF ASGARD--AND THE MYSTERIES OF EARTH!
WHEN, IF EVER, SHALL THEY BE MINE TO SAVOR ONCE AGAIN?
SUDDENLY, WITHOUT ANY WARNING--
THE SHIP LURCHES-- AS THOUGH STRUCK!
BUT, WITH SUCH A CRAFT-- IT CANNOT BE!
IN ALL OF SPACE, THERE IS NO ASTEROID, NO PLANET, NO NATURAL FORCE, GREAT ENOUGH TO HALT THE ODINSHIP!
AND YET-- THE VESSEL DOTH NOT MOVE!
IT HOVERS, MOTIONLESS-- AS THOUGH ENTRAPPED!
I MUST LEARN WHAT HATH--
BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD-- WHAT BE THIS??
NO LONGER DOTH AIRLESS SPACE SURROUND ME!
THE ODINSHIP IS CAPTURED-- WITHIN A STRANGE AND MIGHTY STRUCTURE!
7

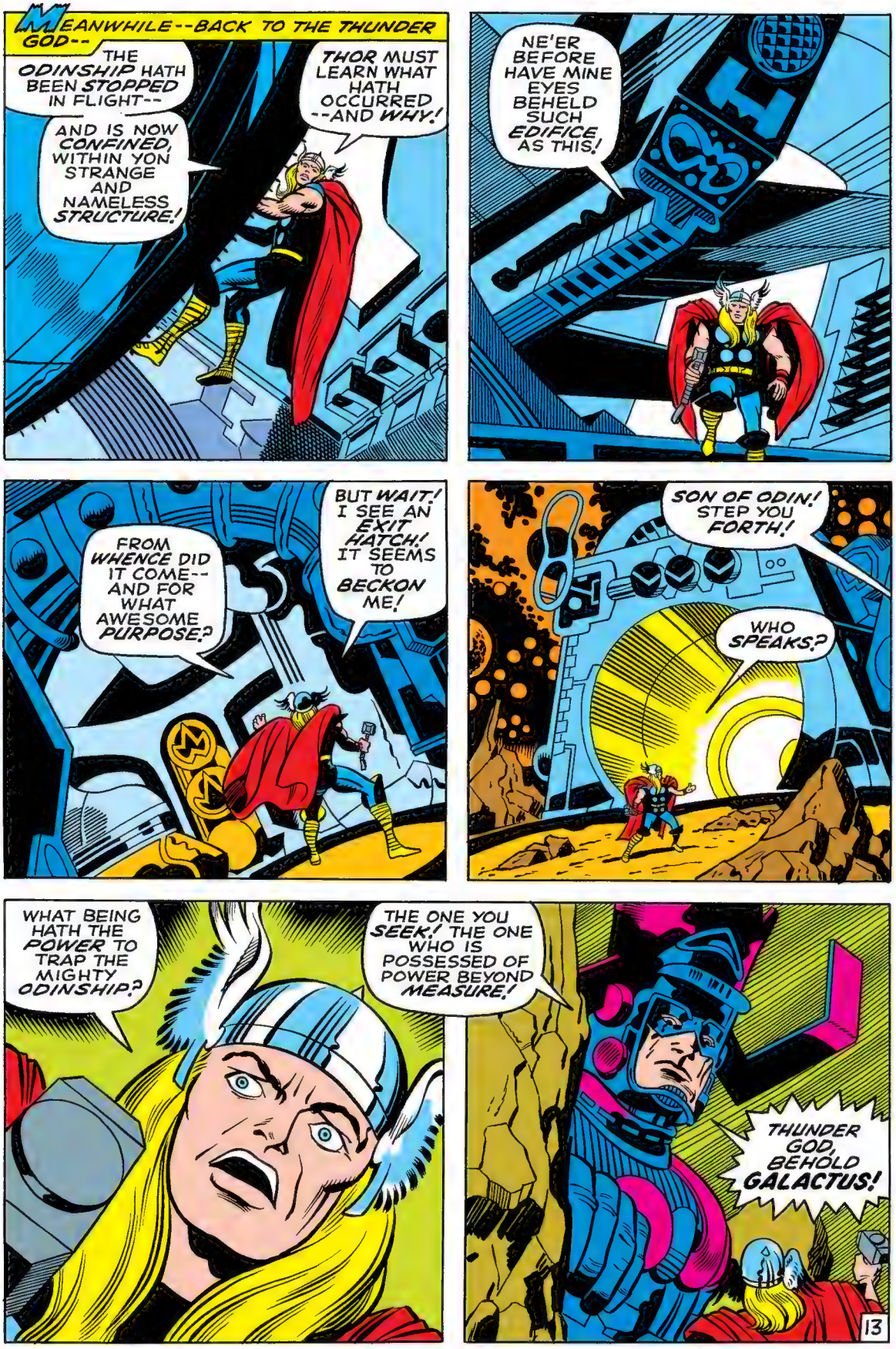

AT THAT VERY INSTANT--AN UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCE AWAY--AT A SECRET ATOMIC EXPERIMENTAL CENTER--IN THE MYSTERIOUS ORIENT--ON PLANET EARTH--
THE PROJECT IS AT LAST COMPLETED!
IT HAS TAKEN YEARS TO CREATE HIM!
BUT IT WAS TIME WELL SPENT!
THERMAL-MAN LIVES!
FOR HIS IS THE POWER TO BRING DESTRUCTION TO THE ACCURSED FREE WORLD!
THE RADIATION LEVEL RISES! THE MONSTER BEGINS TO STIR!
THEN THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT TEST!
GUARDS! STAND READY!
WITH A SINGLE THERMAL BLAST, HE HAS ATOMIZED HIS CHAINS!
THAT MEANS-- NO EARTHLY POWER CAN HOLD HIM!
HE SEES US-- THRU THE PLEXIGLASS!
HE HAS TURNED! HE BEGINS TO LUNGE!
LOOK OUT! HE PREPARES TO STRIKE THE WALL!
SU-KOOM!
8

HE IS STRONGER THAN WE KNEW! STOP HIM! STOP HIM!
IT IS USELESS! OUR PUNY WEAPONS CANNOT AFFECT HIM!
NOTHING CAN STOP HIM--SAVE THE SONIC SHELL!
AND EVEN THAT WILL FAIL--UNLESS IT IS USED BEFORE HE REACHES HIS FULL POWER!
THE SHELL IS ON ITS WAY-- BUT WE DARE NOT WAIT!
BRING UP THE STUN-GUN!
FIRE!
HE MUST BE STOPPED-- SO WE MAY PROGRAM HIM ANEW!
9

BUT, BEFORE THE GIANT WEAPON CAN BE FIRED--
TOO LATE! HE SHATTERED IT WITH BUT A SINGLE THERMO-BLAST!
ONLY THE SONIC SHELL CAN STOP HIM NOW!
IN ANOTHER FEW MINUTES, NOT EVEN THE POWER OF THE SHELL COULD STOP HIM!
WE HAVE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME!
BUT NOW, WITH HIS THERMAL STRENGTH STILL IN THE FORMULATIVE STAGE--
--THE SONIC BLAST CAN VIBRATE THRU HIS ENTIRE NERVOUS STRUCTURE-- CAUSING HIM TO TOPPLE!
WE HAVE HALTED HIM--BUT NOT FOR LONG!
THE ATOMIC PILE WHICH GIVES HIM LIFE STILL GLOWS WITHIN HIS MASSIVE CHEST!
HE WILL SOON ARISE--WITH GREATER STRENGTH THAN EVER!
10

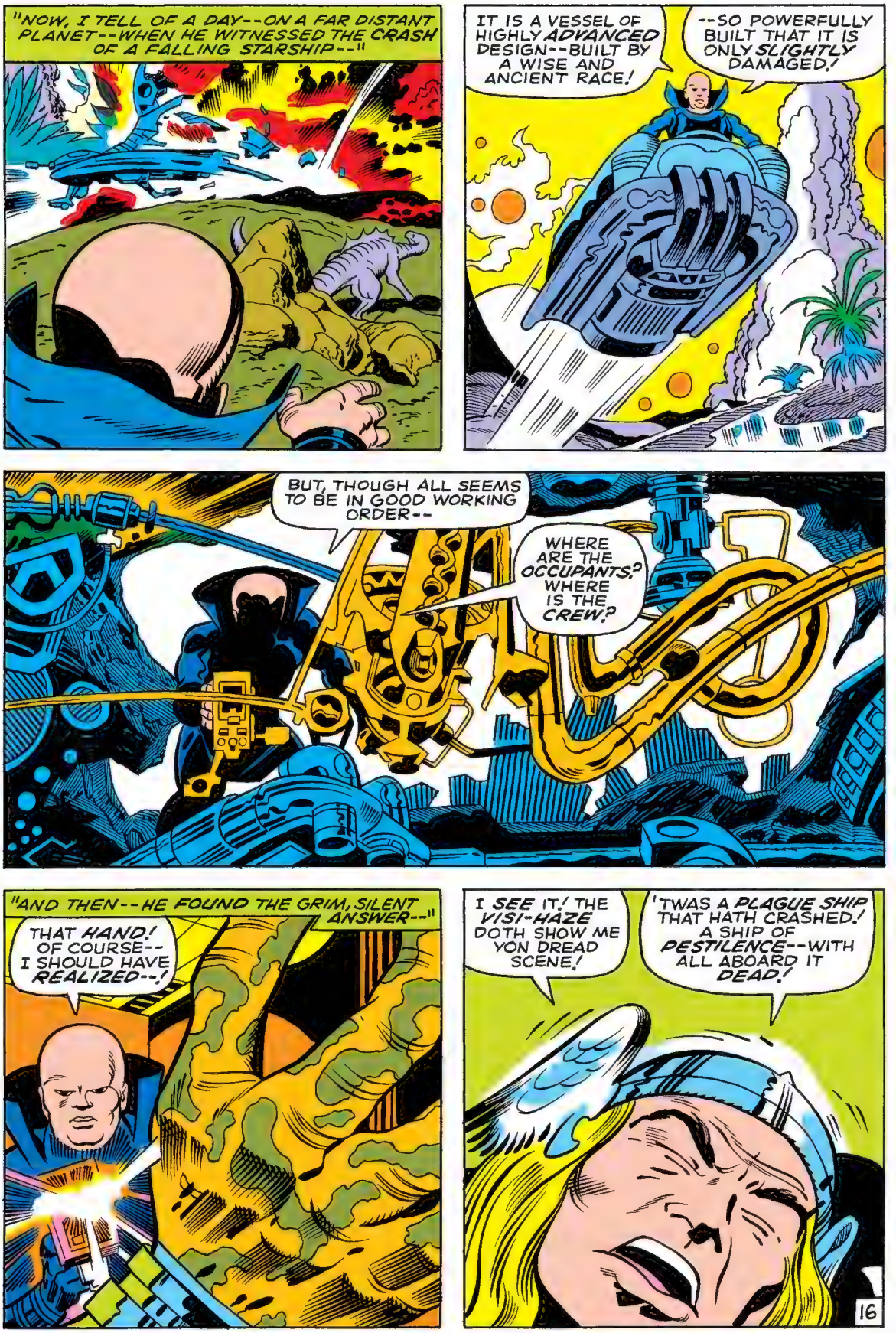
SEND FOR THE LAUNCH TRAILER!
YOU MEAN--THE TIME HAS COME? THE WEST WILL FEEL OUR BLOW AT LAST?
YES! THE THERMAL-MAN MUST NOW BEGIN HIS JOURNEY!
BRING HIM TO THE ROCKET!
THE FOOLS OF THE FREE WORLD KNEW WE WERE MAKING ATOMIC TESTS!
BUT LITTLE DID THEY SUSPECT WE WERE CREATING AN ARTIFICIAL THERMAL BEING!
A HUMANOIDAL ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION WHO CANNOT BE STOPPED--CANNOT BE SLAIN!
ONLY ONE PURPOSE HAS HE--AND ONE ALONE--
HE SHALL BRING THE WESTERN WORLD TO ITS KNEES!
SUCH IS THE PURPOSE--AND THE FATE--OF THERMAL-MAN!


MINUTES LATER, HIGH ABOVE THE WESTERN COAST OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES--
A MISSILE --FROM ACROSS THE PACIFIC!
WHY WOULD THEY ATTACK WITH ONLY ONE?
WELL, WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE REASONS LATER--
BLAST 'ER OUT OF THE SKY!
BU-TOOM!
WE GOT IT!
BUT, AS THE DEBRIS DROPS TO EARTH --ONE STRANGE OBJECT FALLS UNNOTICED--
--AN OBJECT SO POWERFUL THAT NOT EVEN THE SHOCK OF LANDING CAN HARM IT!
--INSTEAD, THE IMPACT CAUSES IT TO--WAKEN!


MEANWHILE--BACK TO THE THUNDER GOD--
THE ODINSHIP HATH BEEN STOPPED IN FLIGHT--
AND IS NOW CONFINED, WITHIN YON STRANGE AND NAMELESS STRUCTURE!
THOR MUST LEARN WHAT HATH OCCURRED --AND WHY!
NE'ER BEFORE HAVE MINE EYES BEHELD SUCH EDIFICE AS THIS!
FROM WHENCE DID IT COME-- AND FOR WHAT AWESOME PURPOSE?
BUT WAIT! I SEE AN EXIT HATCH! IT SEEMS TO BECKON ME!
SON OF ODIN! STEP YOU FORTH!
WHO SPEAKS?
WHAT BEING HATH THE POWER TO TRAP THE MIGHTY ODINSHIP?
THE ONE YOU SEEK! THE ONE WHO IS POSSESSED OF POWER BEYOND MEASURE!
THUNDER GOD, BEHOLD GALACTUS!
13

METHOUGHT THE QUEST WOULD TAKE AN AGE-- BUT, SINCE THE TIME BE NOW--
THEN THOR SHALL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE--!
ASGARDIAN! IT IS NOT MY WISH TO BATTLE!
BATTLE WE MUST-- SINCE THOU ART ODIN'S ENEMY SWORN!
THY POWER BIDS FAIR TO RIVAL HIS!
BUT ETERNAL ASGARD MUST NE'ER BE THREATENED!
YOU STRIKE IN VAIN! MY GALACTIAN BARRIER NOW STANDS BETWEEN US!
DID IT NOT OCCUR TO YOU THAT I HAVE AWAITED YOUR COMING?
YOU STAND BEFORE ME BECAUSE IT WAS MY WISH THAT I BE FOUND!
GALACTUS IS WEARY OF THE CHASE!
NOW, THERE IS MUCH THAT MUST BE SAID!
--MUCH THAT I HAVE THOUGHT UPON--FOR LO, THESE UNTOLD AGES!
14

AND NOW--TO SPEED YOUR UNDERSTANDING--I UNLEASH A VISI-CLOUD--
ITS MIST SHALL PENETRATE THE FIBERS OF YOUR BODY--THE INNER REACHES OF YOUR BRAIN--
FOR, YOU MUST SEE WHAT I SHALL TELL YOU--
AND, WHAT YOU SEE, YOU MUST BELIEVE!
AND SO YOU SHALL! AND SO YOU SHALL!
"AGES UPON AGES AGO--WHEN GALAXIES WERE STILL A'BORNING--WHEN EARTH WAS IN ITS INFANCY--"
"THERE WAS ONE BEING--CALLED THE WATCHER--WHOSE EYES SPANNED THE COSMOS IN A CONSTANT VIGIL--"


"NOW, I TELL OF A DAY--ON A FAR DISTANT PLANET--WHEN HE WITNESSED THE CRASH OF A FALLING STARSHIP--"
IT IS A VESSEL OF HIGHLY ADVANCED DESIGN--BUILT BY A WISE AND ANCIENT RACE!
--SO POWERFULLY BUILT THAT IT IS ONLY SLIGHTLY DAMAGED!
BUT, THOUGH ALL SEEMS TO BE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER--
WHERE ARE THE OCCUPANTS? WHERE IS THE CREW?
"AND THEN--HE FOUND THE GRIM, SILENT ANSWER--"
THAT HAND! OF COURSE-- I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED--!
I SEE IT! THE VISI-HAZE DOTH SHOW ME YON DREAD SCENE!
'TWAS A PLAGUE SHIP THAT HATH CRASHED! A SHIP OF PESTILENCE--WITH ALL ABOARD IT DEAD!
16

YOU HAVE BUT SEEN THE BEGINNINGS OF MY TALE!
PLEDGE ME YOUR WORD THAT YOU WILL STAY YOUR HAMMER'S WRATH--
AND I SHALL RELEASE YOU FROM THE MISTS OF THE VISI-HAZE!
FOR, IT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING I SEEK-- AND NOT YOUR ENMITY!
THEN SAY THY PIECE, GALACTUS!
THOR SHALL NOT STRIKE-- IF THERE BE NO CAUSE!
SO SPEAKS THE SON OF ODIN!
THEN RISE YOU NOW, GOD OF THUNDER! THERE IS MUCH THAT YOU MUST HEAR!

BUT, WHILE OUR HERO TAKES A MOMENT TO CLEAR THE COBWEBS, LET'S QUICKLY SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE DEADLY THERMAL-MAN--
I WAS CREATED FOR ONE PURPOSE--FOR DESTRUCTION!
I MUST DO WHAT I WAS BORN TO DO! I MUST NOT BE FOUND WANTING!
BEFORE ME LIES A CITY-- A CITY TO BE CRUSHED!
AND, WITHIN THAT UNSUSPECTING CITY--
WHEN WILT THOU LEARN? THE FURNITURE OF MORTALS IS NOT FOR SUCH AS THEE!
NAY! VOLSTAGG IS TRULY GRACE INCARNATE!
THE WOOD ITSELF IS FAULTY!
METHINKS DON BLAKE SHOULD PURCHASE STOUTER CHAIRS!
FANDRAL! I HAVE NEED OF THEE!
SURELY 'TIS NO PROBLEM, GRIM ONE! MERELY LEAVE HIM ON THE FLOOR!
HAVING BROKEN EVERY CHAIR, VOLSTAGG NOW HATH CRUSHED THE BED!
BUT WHAT IF THAT BE NEXT TO CRUMBLE?
HOLD, ASGARDIAN!
THERE-- UPON YON SCREEN! THE IMAGE HATH SUDDENLY CHANGED!
A CALAMITY HATH BEFALLEN THE CITY!
18

--THE PUBLIC IS URGED TO STAY OFF THE STREETS! WE REPEAT-- STAY IN YOUR HOMES--UNTIL THE GIGANTIC, RAMPAGING CREATURE CAN BE STOPPED!
WHAT MANNER OF MENACE BE THAT?
NEVER HATH FANDRAL SEEN THE LIKE!
HE DECIMATES AN ENTIRE BUILDING WITH BUT A GLANCE!
'TIS GOOD THAT ODIN GAVE US LEAVE TO VISIT THEE!
METHINKS 'TWILL BE BATTLE ENOW FOR ALL!
TO SWORD, ASGARDIANS!
BALDER --WHERE THOU LEAD, WE FOLLOW!
THOUGH THE THUNDER GOD BE GONE--
THIS WORLD HE HATH LOVED SO WELL SHALL NOT BE LEFT UNGUARDED!
SO SPEAKS HOGUN!
SO SPEAKS BALDER!
SO SPEAKS FANDRAL!
19

AND SO SPEAKS VOLSTAGG!
--IF THOU WILT BUT FREE ME FROM YON ACCURSED BED!
KY-RRSSH!
WHILE, A HUNDRED TIMES A HUNDRED WORLDS AWAY--
THE VISI-MISTS NOW START TO FADE--
A PLAGUE SHIP! I HAVE BEHELD A PLAGUE SHIP--FILLED WITH PESTILENCE AND DOOM!
YOU HAVE BUT SEEN THE START!
THERE IS FAR MORE TO COME!
AND SO I SAY-- AWAKEN, THOR!
THE TIME IS COME FOR YOU TO LEARN--
NEXT
--THE WHY OF GALACTUS!
20

THOR
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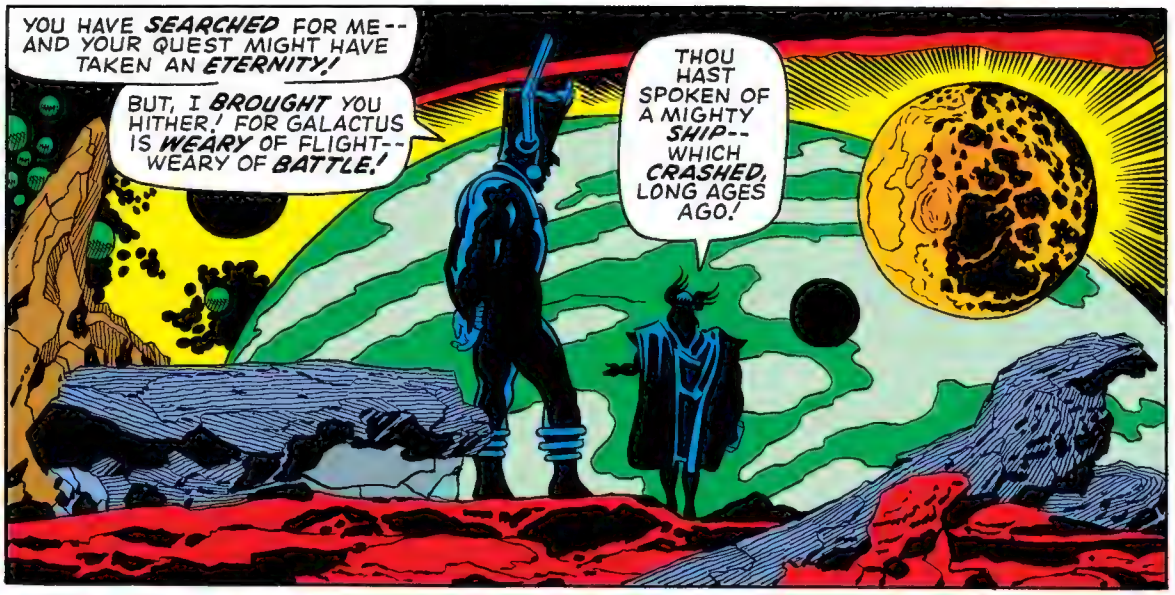
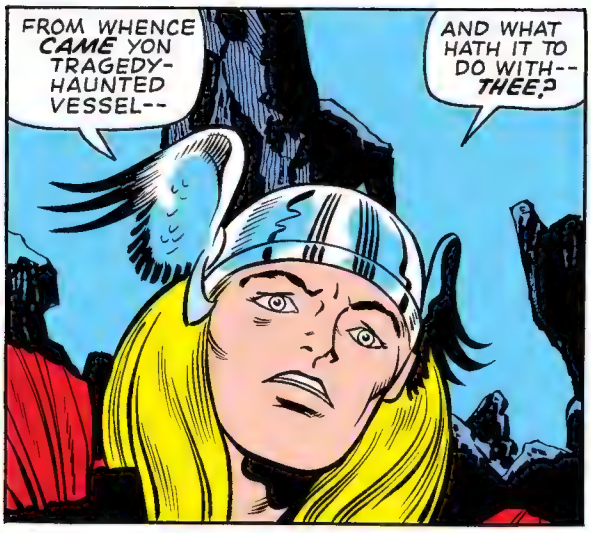
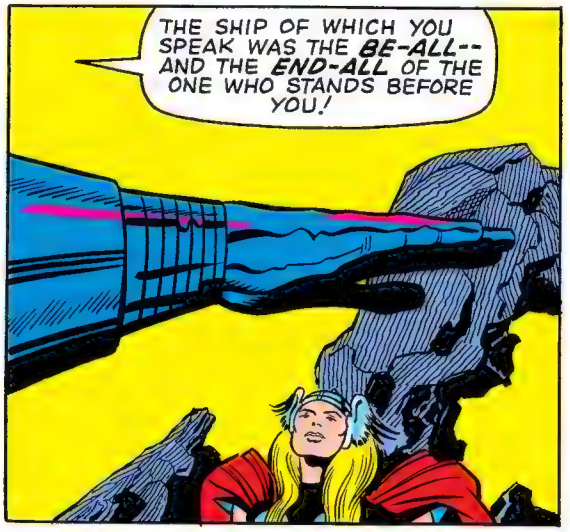
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE MONSTER AND THE MAN-GOD!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
THE AWESOME ANSWER!
IN THE DEEPEST REACH OF ENDLESS SPACE, GALACTUS AND THE GOD OF THUNDER FACE EACH OTHER AT LAST, IN A FEARFUL TRUCE-- AS THE BROODING GIANT SLOWLY TELLS THE SECRET OF HIS PAST--
AND NOW, PREPARE TO HEAR WHAT NONE HAVE EVER HEARD--
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
INKING: GEORGE KLEIN
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK


YOU HAVE SEARCHED FOR ME--AND YOUR QUEST MIGHT HAVE TAKEN AN ETERNITY!
BUT, I BROUGHT YOU HITHER! FOR GALACTUS IS WEARY OF FLIGHT--WEARY OF BATTLE!
THOU HAST SPOKEN OF A MIGHTY SHIP--WHICH CRASHED, LONG AGES AGO!

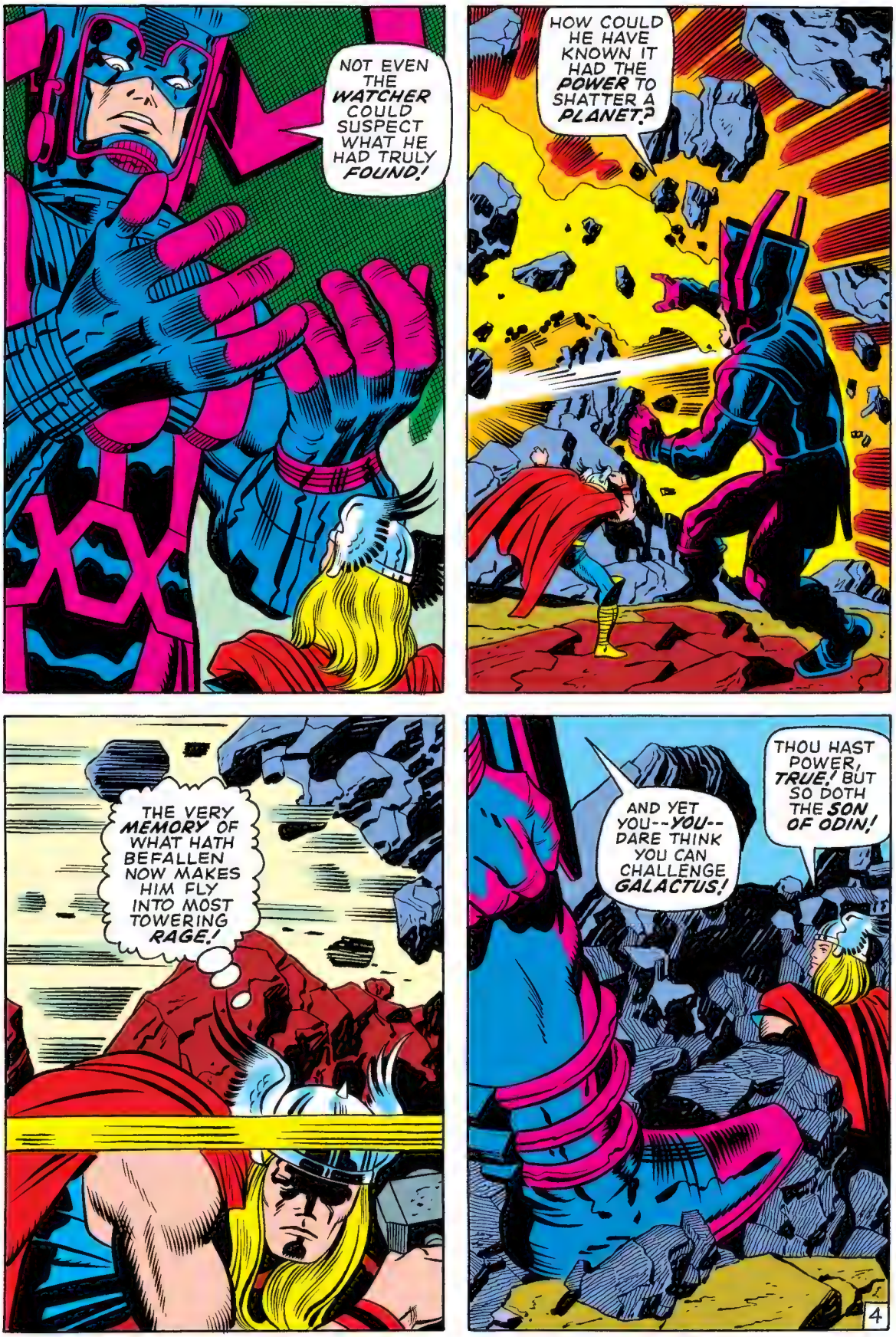

FROM WHENCE CAME YON TRAGEDY-HAUNTED VESSEL--
AND WHAT HATH IT TO DO WITH--THEE?

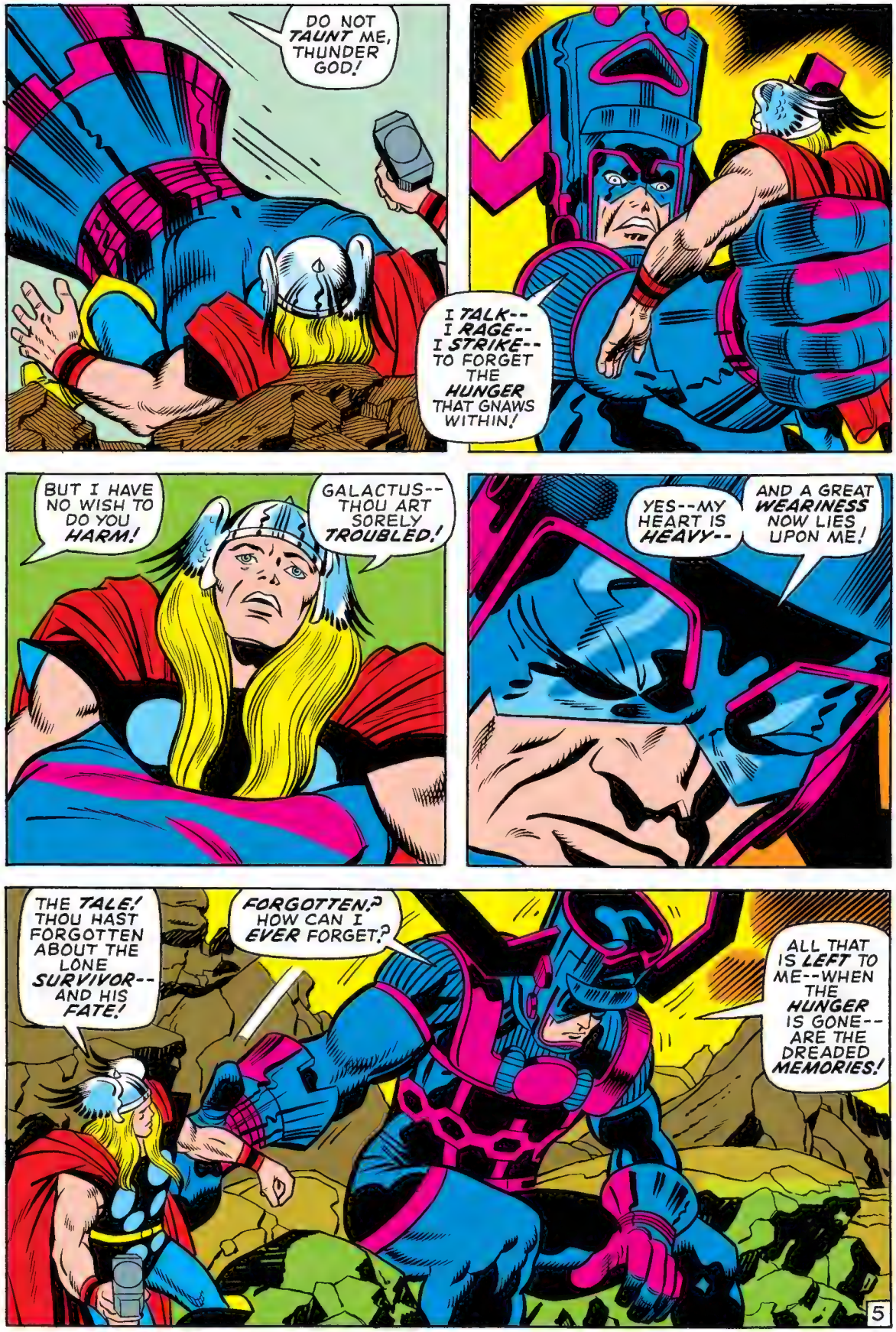

THE SHIP OF WHICH YOU SPEAK WAS THE BE-ALL--AND THE END-ALL OF THE ONE WHO STANDS BEFORE YOU!

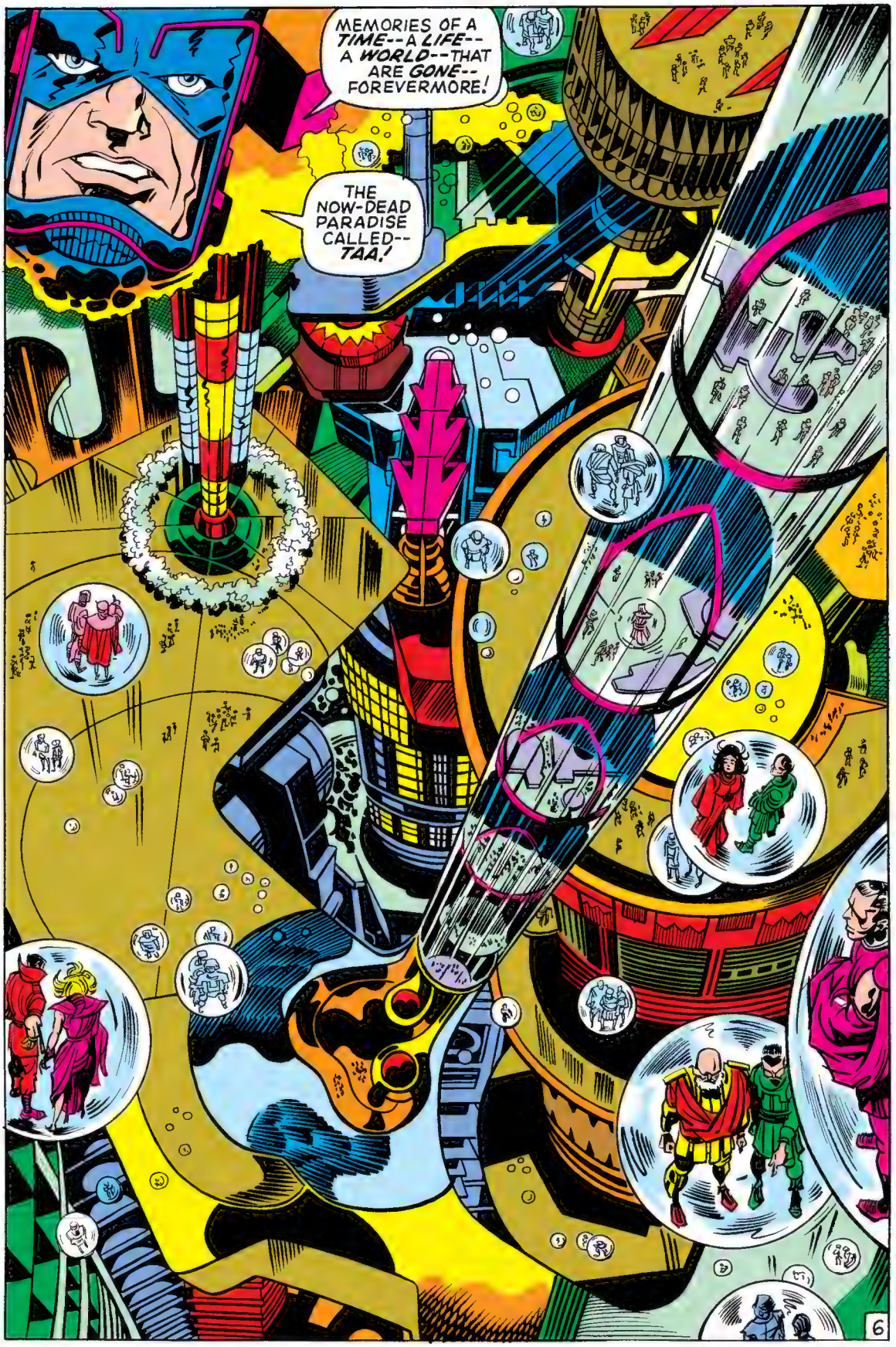
"FOR, EVEN IN DEATH--IT WAS FATED TO SPAWN NEW LIFE!"

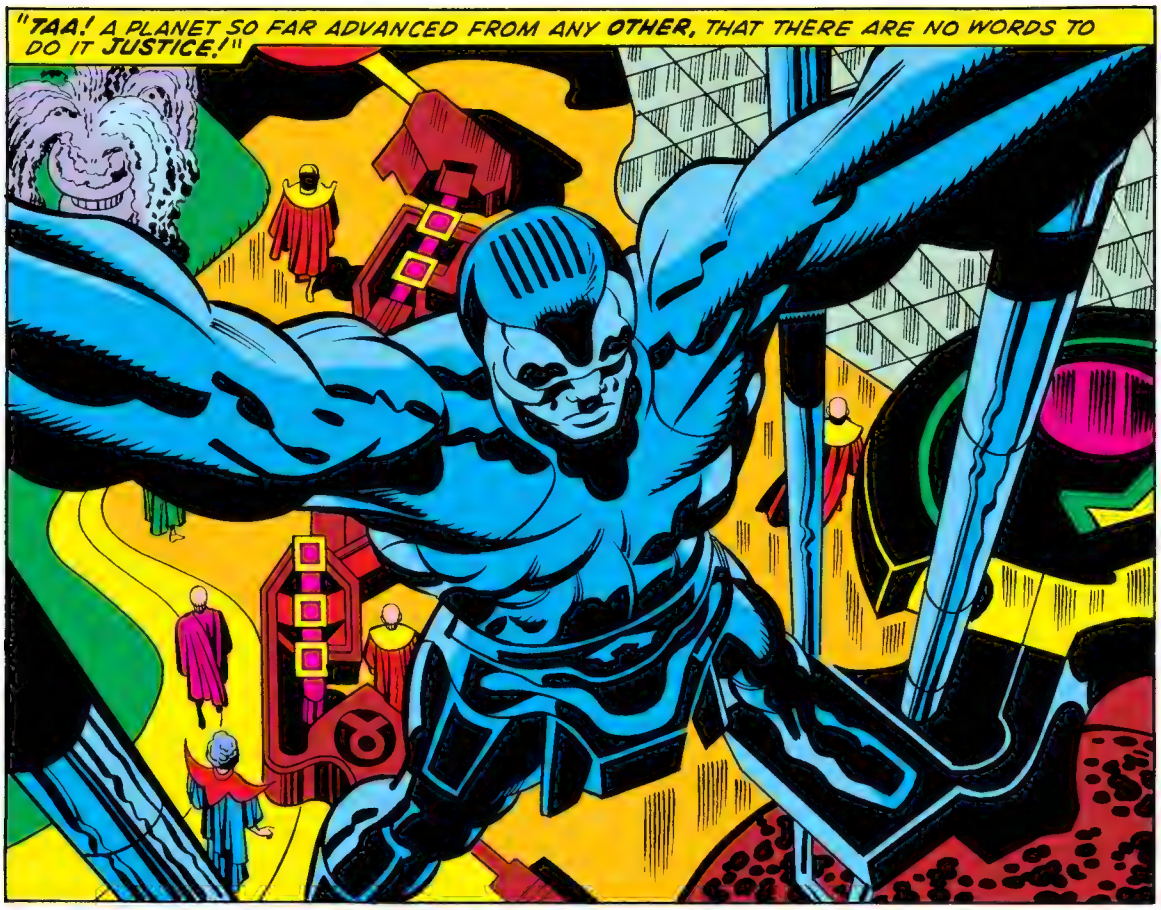
"ONE THERE WAS WHO HAD WITNESSED THE CRASH--ONE WHOM MEN CALL--THE WATCHER!"
2

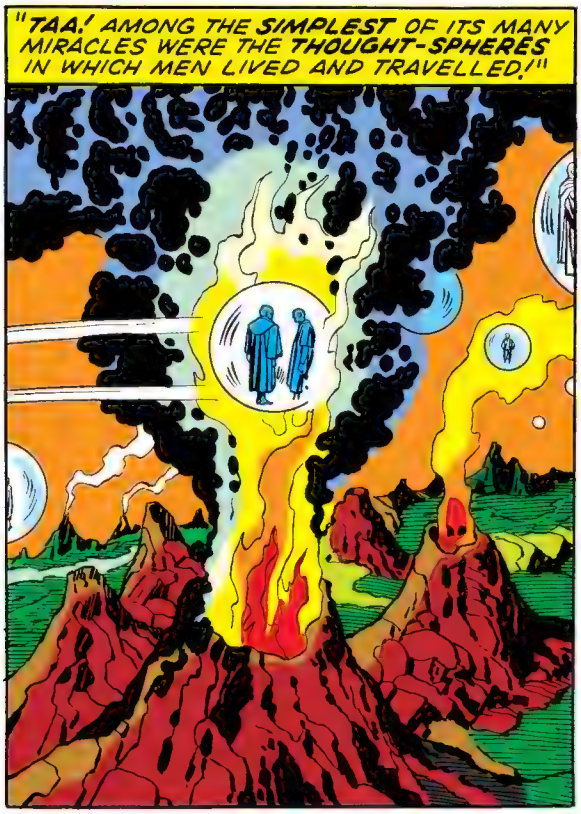
THE CREW HAS PERISHED--ALL VICTIMS OF LETHAL RADIATION!
BUT STILL, I SENSE A TRACE OF LIFE!
SOMEWHERE ABOARD, THERE IS A SURVIVOR TO BE FOUND!
THIS ONE LIVES! AND YET, HOW STRANGE IT IS--
HE HAS BEEN CLOSEST TO THE DEADLY DETONATION!
YON SURVIVOR, GALACTUS-- 'TWAS MOST SURELY THEE!
BUT NOT THE ME OF OLD! IT WAS THE ME THAT WAS YET TO BE!
3

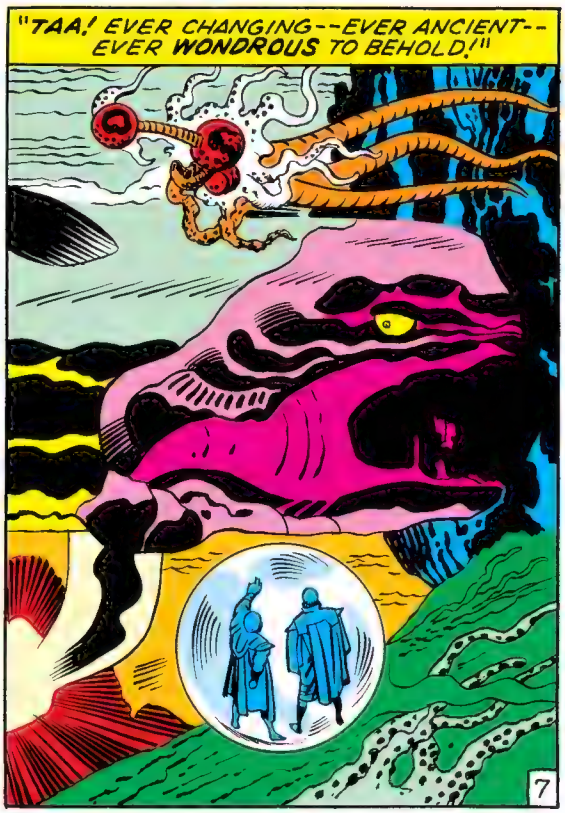

NOT EVEN THE WATCHER COULD SUSPECT WHAT HE HAD TRULY FOUND!
HOW COULD HE HAVE KNOWN IT HAD THE POWER TO SHATTER A PLANET?
THE VERY MEMORY OF WHAT HATH BEFALLEN NOW MAKES HIM FLY INTO MOST TOWERING RAGE!
AND YET YOU--YOU--DARE THINK YOU CAN CHALLENGE GALACTUS!
THOU HAST POWER, TRUE! BUT SO DOTH THE SON OF ODIN!
4


DO NOT TAUNT ME, THUNDER GOD!
I TALK-- I RAGE-- I STRIKE-- TO FORGET THE HUNGER THAT GNAWS WITHIN!
BUT I HAVE NO WISH TO DO YOU HARM!
GALACTUS-- THOU ART SORELY TROUBLED!
YES--MY HEART IS HEAVY--
AND A GREAT WEARINESS NOW LIES UPON ME!
THE TALE! THOU HAST FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE LONE SURVIVOR-- AND HIS FATE!
FORGOTTEN? HOW CAN I EVER FORGET?
ALL THAT IS LEFT TO ME--WHEN THE HUNGER IS GONE-- ARE THE DREADED MEMORIES!
5

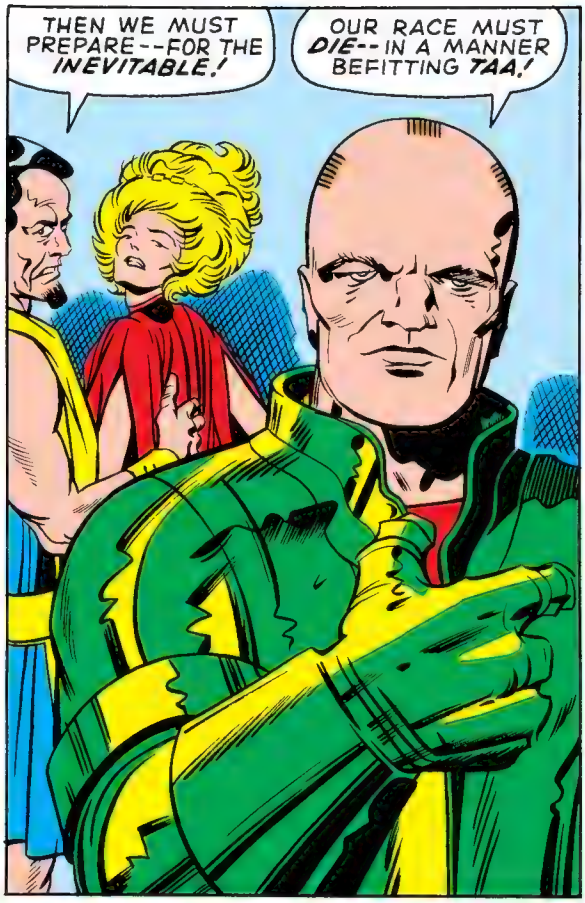

MEMORIES OF A TIME--A LIFE--A WORLD--THAT ARE GONE--FOREVERMORE!
THE NOW-DEAD PARADISE CALLED--TAA!
6

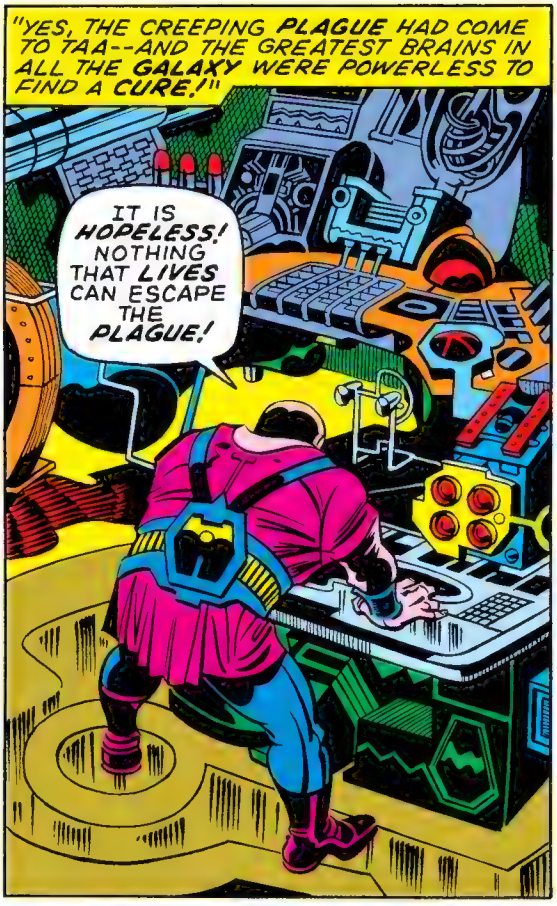

"TAA! A PLANET SO FAR ADVANCED FROM ANY OTHER, THAT THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DO IT JUSTICE!"


"TAA! AMONG THE SIMPLEST OF ITS MANY MIRACLES WERE THE THOUGHT-SPHERES IN WHICH MEN LIVED AND TRAVELLED!"


"TAA! EVER CHANGING--EVER ANCIENT--EVER WONDROUS TO BEHOLD!"
7

"BUT, NOT EVEN FABLED TAA COULD ENDURE--FOREVER!"
HE RETURNS AT LAST!
NOW WE SHALL LEARN OUR PLANET'S FATE!
YOU DO NOT SPEAK!
I CANNOT SPEAK--
OF WHAT USE ARE WORDS AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
A TIME OF DREAD CATASTROPHE!
IT IS AS WE FEARED!! THE WORLD OF TAA IS-- DOOMED!
I HAVE BEEN TO THE FARTHEST END OF THE COSMOS--
BUT MY JOURNEY WAS--IN VAIN!
THERE IS NO CURE FOR THE CREEPING PLAGUE!
8

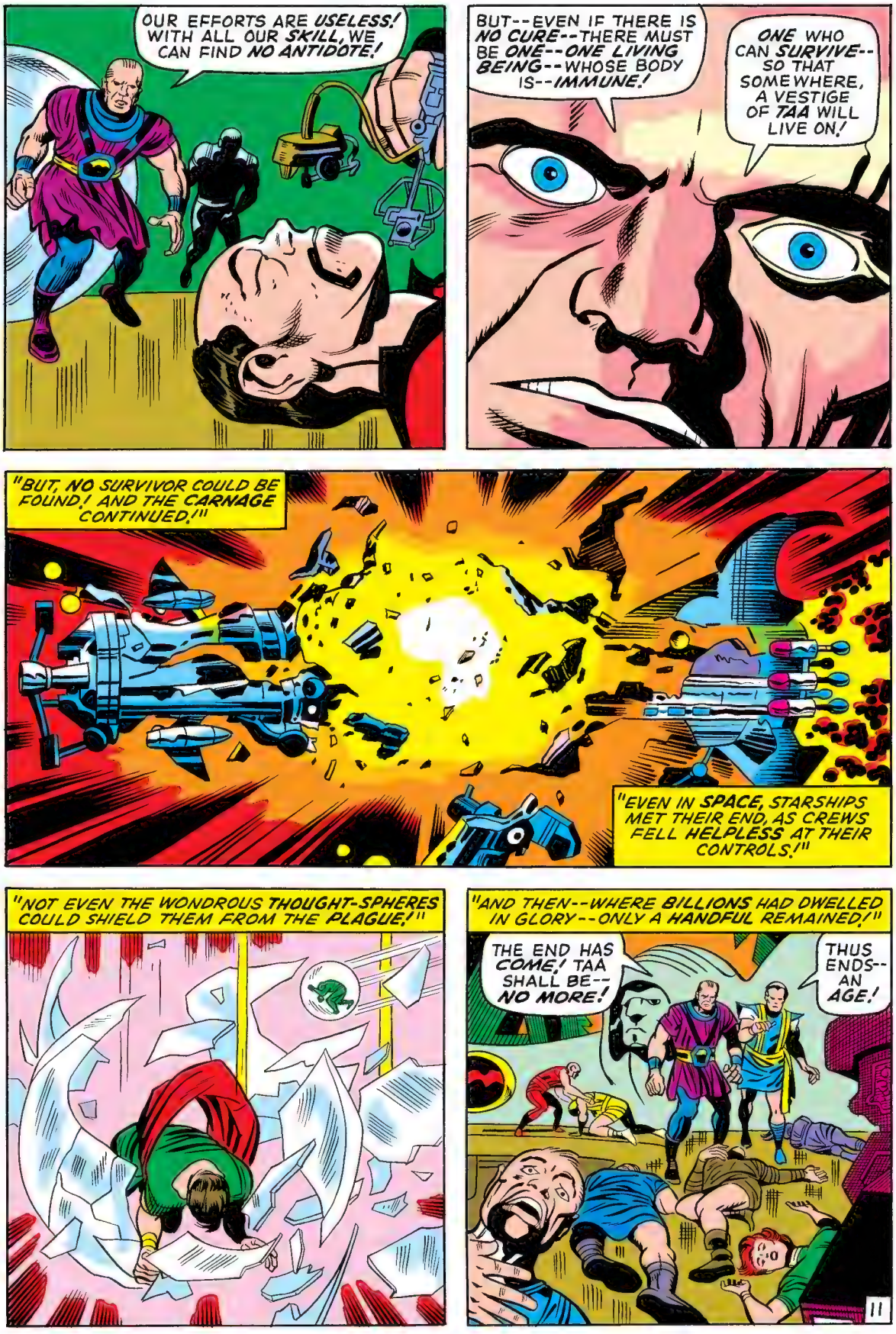

THEN WE MUST PREPARE--FOR THE INEVITABLE!
OUR RACE MUST DIE--IN A MANNER BEFITTING TAA!


"YES, THE CREEPING PLAGUE HAD COME TO TAA--AND THE GREATEST BRAINS IN ALL THE GALAXY WERE POWERLESS TO FIND A CURE!"
IT IS HOPELESS! NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN ESCAPE THE PLAGUE!

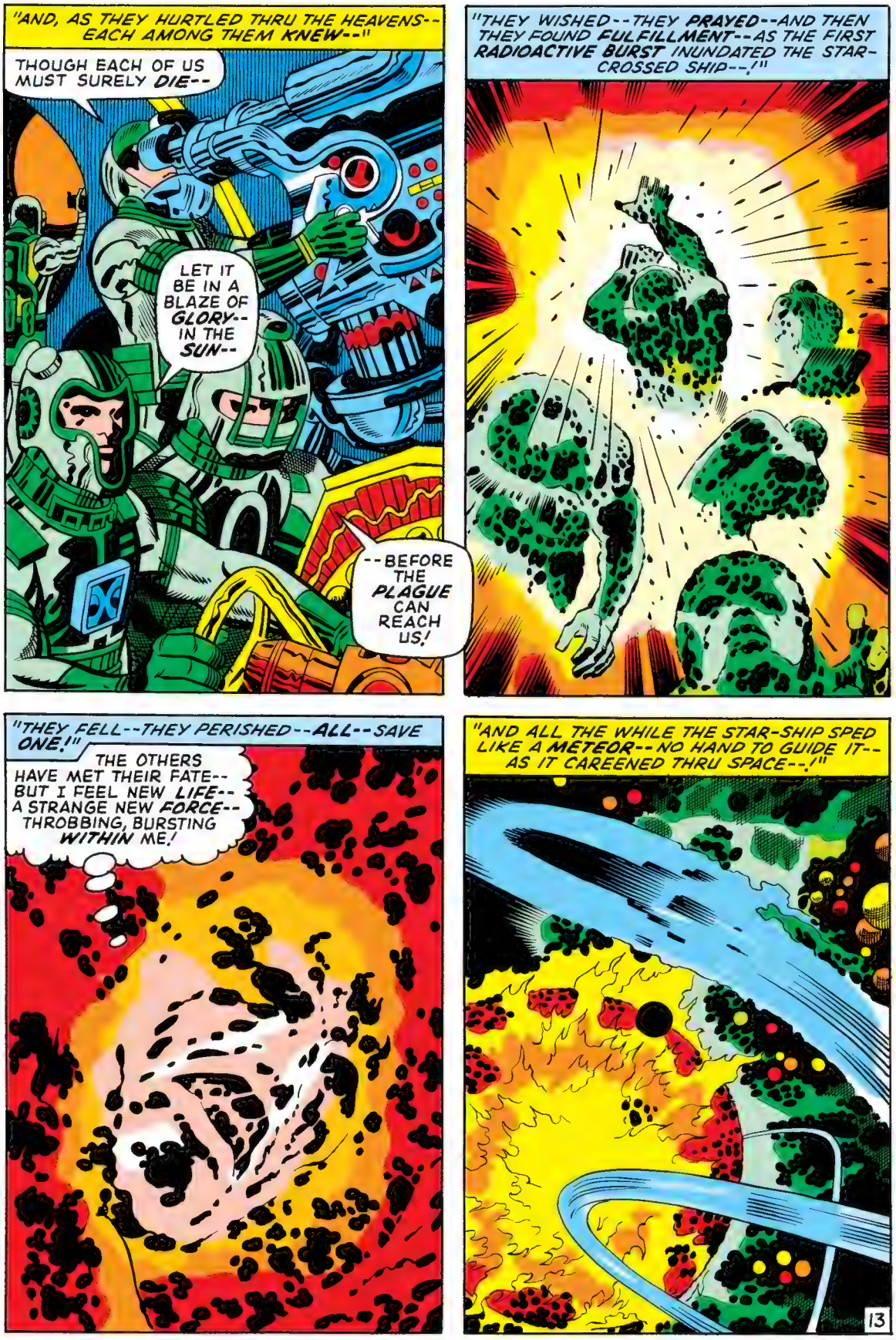
EVEN NOW, THE VISI-SCREEN SHOWS DISTANT SPECIES--STRUCK DOWN IN THEIR PRIME!

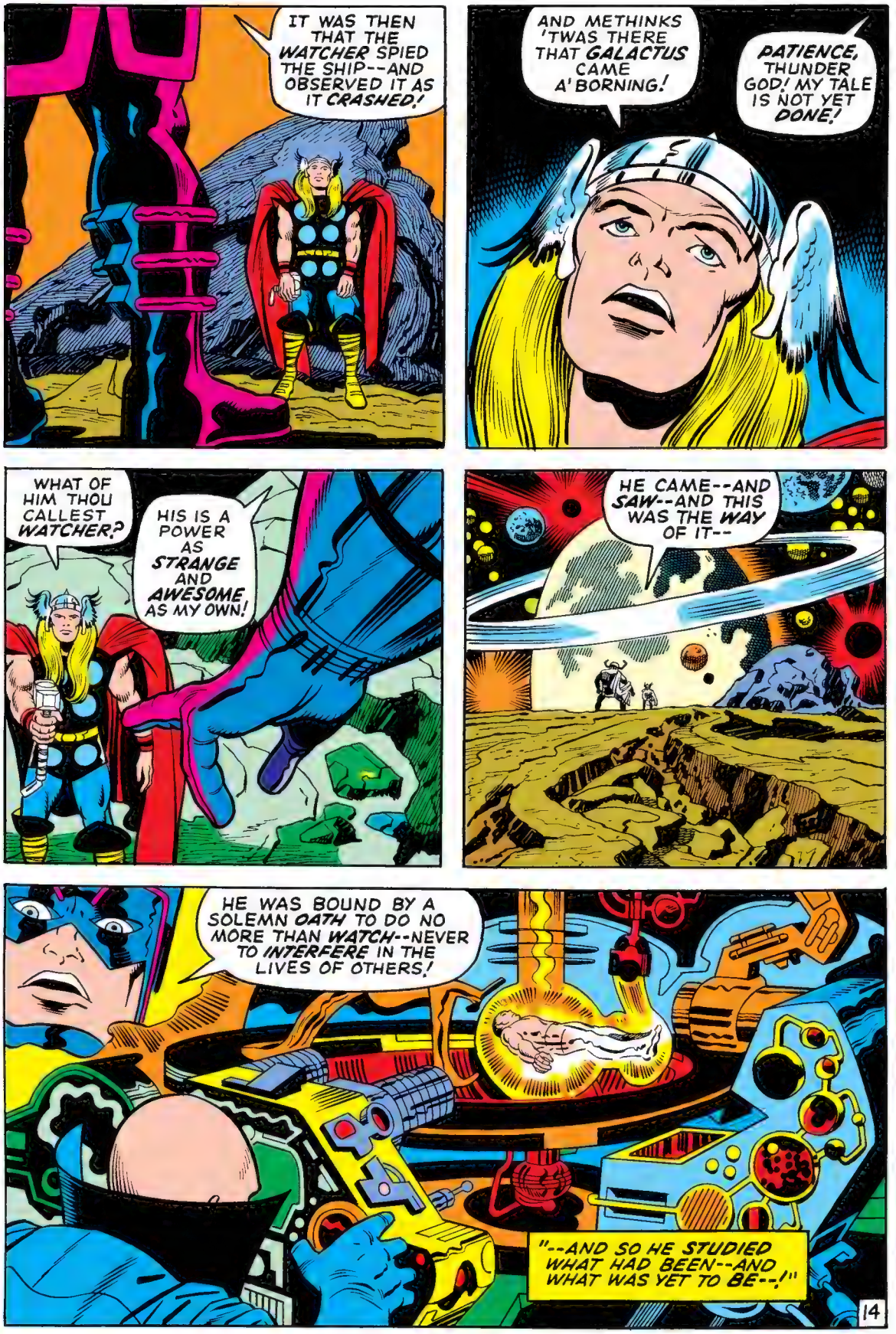
AND EACH PASSING MOMENT BRINGS IT CLOSER--CLOSER TO TAA!
WHILE ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH--AND WAIT!

AND YET, IT IS NOT FITTING THAT ALL MUST PERISH!
SOMEHOW, SOME WAY--THE GLORY AND THE GRANDEUR THAT ARE TAA--MUST LIVE!
AND LIVE THEY SHALL!
FOR DESTINY ITSELF SHALL FIND A WAY!
IN THE SQUARE BELOW--THE PLAGUE HAS TRAVELLED FASTER--EVEN FURTHER THAN WE FEARED!
ALREADY IT HAS REACHED OUR HEART-LAND!


OUR EFFORTS ARE USELESS! WITH ALL OUR SKILL, WE CAN FIND NO ANTIDOTE!
BUT--EVEN IF THERE IS NO CURE--THERE MUST BE ONE--ONE LIVING BEING--WHOSE BODY IS--IMMUNE!
ONE WHO CAN SURVIVE--SO THAT SOMEWHERE, A VESTIGE OF TAA WILL LIVE ON!
"BUT, NO SURVIVOR COULD BE FOUND! AND THE CARNAGE CONTINUED!"
"EVEN IN SPACE, STARSHIPS MET THEIR END, AS CREWS FELL HELPLESS AT THEIR CONTROLS!"
"NOT EVEN THE WONDROUS THOUGHT-SPHERES COULD SHIELD THEM FROM THE PLAGUE!"
"AND THEN--WHERE BILLIONS HAD DWELLED IN GLORY--ONLY A HANDFUL REMAINED!"
THE END HAS COME! TAA SHALL BE--NO MORE!
THUS ENDS--AN AGE!

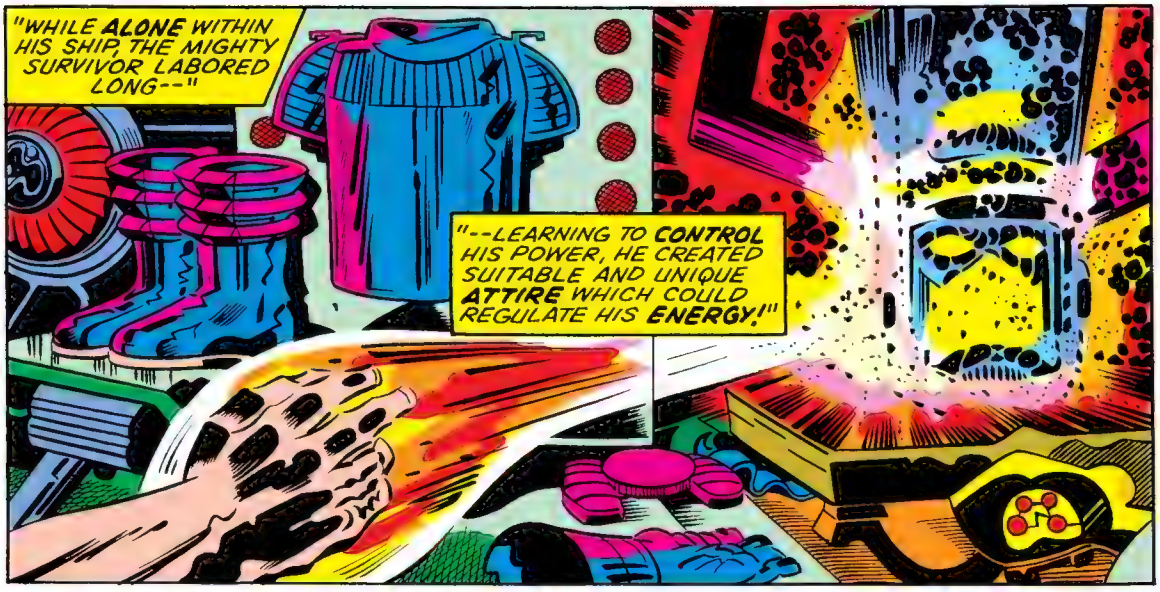
THERE ARE ONLY ENOUGH--TO ASSEMBLE ONE FINAL CREW--!
SINCE WE MUST DIE --LET IT BE IN FLIGHT!
WE WILL GO WHERE MEN HAVE NEVER GONE!
THE LARGEST SUN IN ALL THE WORLD WILL BE OUR FUNERAL PYRE!
THEN GO QUICKLY --WHILE YOU CAN!
LET YOUR FLIGHT--YOUR DEATH-- BE A LIVING MONUMENT--TO TAA--!
THE TAA THAT IS-- NO MORE--!
"AND SO, IT WAS DONE--"
"THE FINAL FLIGHT--THE FINAL GALLANT, FUTILE GESTURE--INTO THE HEART OF THE LARGEST SUN IN ALL THE UNIVERSE--!"

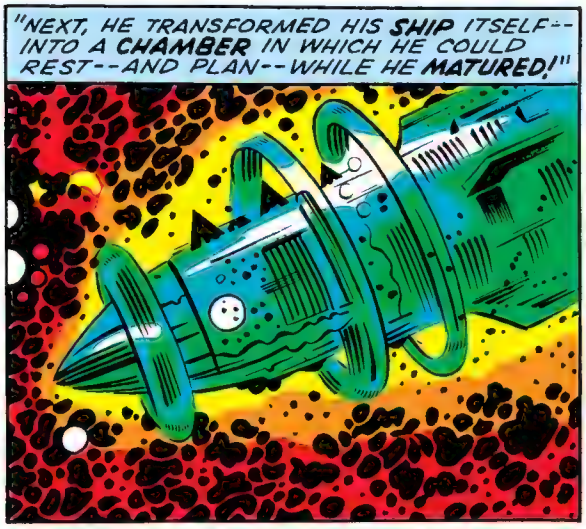

"AND, AS THEY HURTLED THRU THE HEAVENS--EACH AMONG THEM KNEW--"
THOUGH EACH OF US MUST SURELY DIE--
LET IT BE IN A BLAZE OF GLORY--IN THE SUN--
--BEFORE THE PLAGUE CAN REACH US!
"THEY WISHED--THEY PRAYED--AND THEN THEY FOUND FULFILLMENT--AS THE FIRST RADIOACTIVE BURST INUNDATED THE STAR-CROSSED SHIP--!"
"THEY FELL--THEY PERISHED--ALL--SAVE ONE!"
THE OTHERS HAVE MET THEIR FATE--BUT I FEEL NEW LIFE--A STRANGE NEW FORCE--THROBBING, BURSTING WITHIN ME!
"AND ALL THE WHILE THE STAR-SHIP SPED LIKE A METEOR--NO HAND TO GUIDE IT--AS IT CAREENED THRU SPACE--!"
13

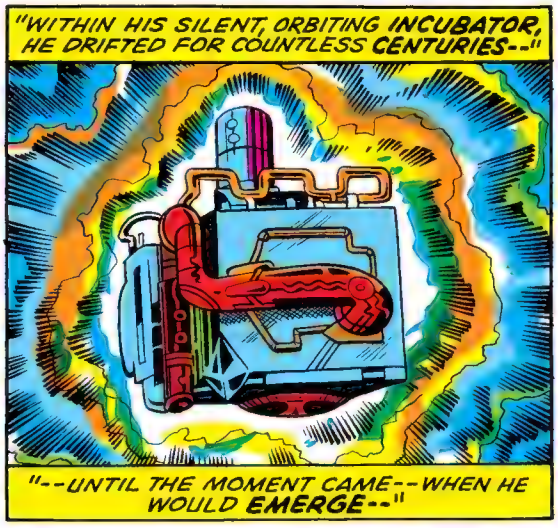

IT WAS THEN THAT THE WATCHER SPIED THE SHIP--AND OBSERVED IT AS IT CRASHED!
AND METHINKS 'TWAS THERE THAT GALACTUS CAME A'BORNING!
PATIENCE, THUNDER GOD! MY TALE IS NOT YET DONE!
WHAT OF HIM THOU CALLEST WATCHER?
HIS IS A POWER AS STRANGE AND AWESOME AS MY OWN!
HE CAME--AND SAW--AND THIS WAS THE WAY OF IT--
HE WAS BOUND BY A SOLEMN OATH TO DO NO MORE THAN WATCH--NEVER TO INTERFERE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS!
"--AND SO HE STUDIED WHAT HAD BEEN--AND WHAT WAS YET TO BE--!"

"HE BEHELD AN ARM--GLOWING WITH ENERGY--CRACKLING WITH RAW, LIVING COSMIC POWER--"
"HE SAW THE POWER SURGE--AND GROW--UNTIL IT COULD NOT BE RESTRAINED--!"
"--UNTIL IT WAS CONSUMED BY A MONSTROUS FIREBALL--OF ITS OWN MAKING!"
I STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF POWER--POWER ENOUGH TO SHATTER A PLANET!
POWER WHICH FEEDS UPON ITSELF--EVEN AS I WATCH!
BUT SOON ITS HUNGER WILL BE SO GREAT--NAUGHT BUT A WORLD CAN APPEASE IT!
15

MINE IS THE POWER TO DESTROY IT NOW--BEFORE IT CAN HARNESS ITS TOTAL FORCE!
BUT I AM PLEDGED TO NEVER TAMPER IN THE AFFAIRS OF LIVING BEINGS!
HE SEES ME! HE SENSES THE DANGER! IF I AM TO STRIKE--IT MUST BE NOW!
BUT I CANNOT! I DARE NOT! I MUST NOT!
IF FATE SO DECREES--THEN HE MUST LIVE--THOUGH GALAXIES DIE!
HE DEPARTS! AND FOR AGES YET UNCOUNTED--I MAY LIVE TO REGRET MY DECISION!
"ONCE IN SPACE AGAIN--THE BEING THAT HAD BEEN NEW BORN PLACED THE OTHER LIFELESS VICTIMS WITHIN A CYLINDER--"
"--EJECTING THEM INTO THE VOID--TO DRIFT IN ENDLESS FLIGHT!"


"WHILE ALONE WITHIN HIS SHIP, THE MIGHTY SURVIVOR LABORED LONG--"
"--LEARNING TO CONTROL HIS POWER, HE CREATED SUITABLE AND UNIQUE ATTIRE WHICH COULD REGULATE HIS ENERGY!"


"NEXT, HE TRANSFORMED HIS SHIP ITSELF--INTO A CHAMBER IN WHICH HE COULD REST--AND PLAN--WHILE HE MATURED!"

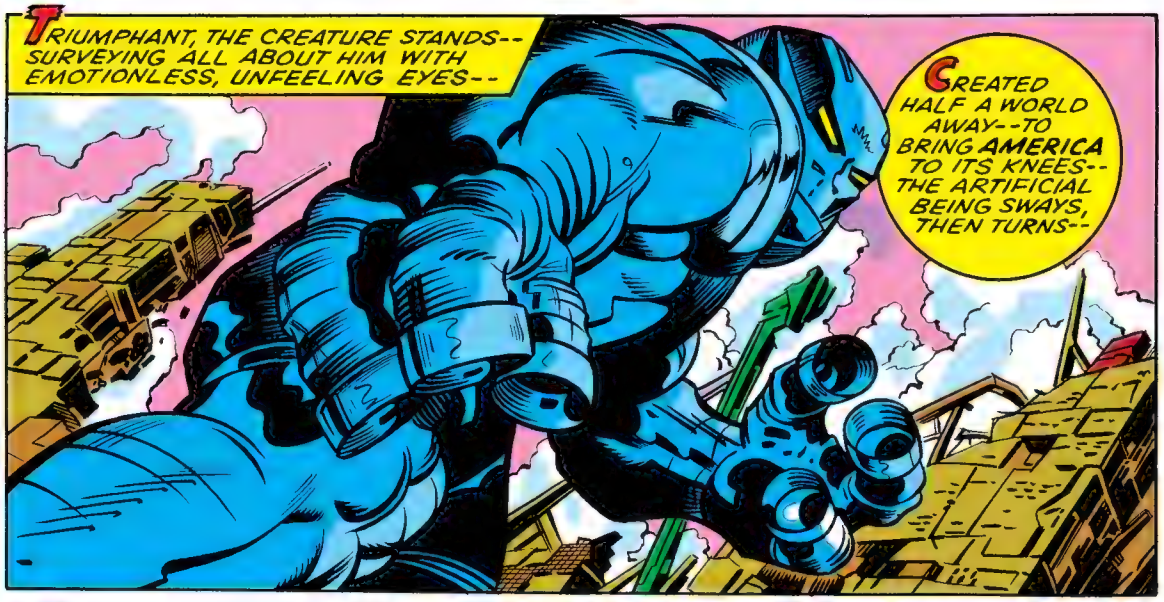

"WITHIN HIS SILENT, ORBITING INCUBATOR, HE DRIFTED FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES--"
"--UNTIL THE MOMENT CAME--WHEN HE WOULD EMERGE--"

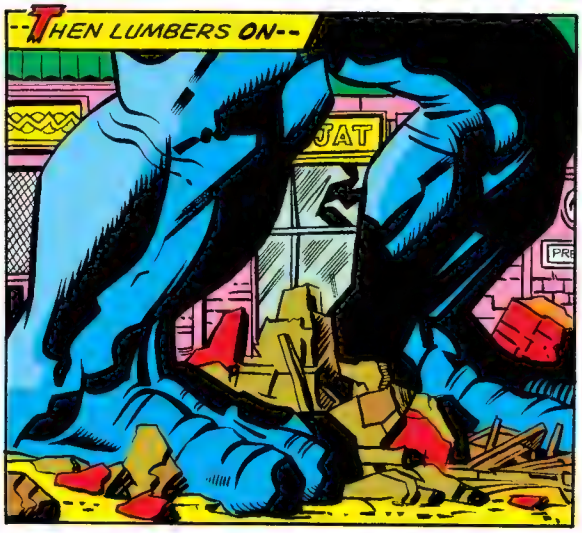
--TO FACE THE WORLD AS-- GALACTUS!
BUT WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

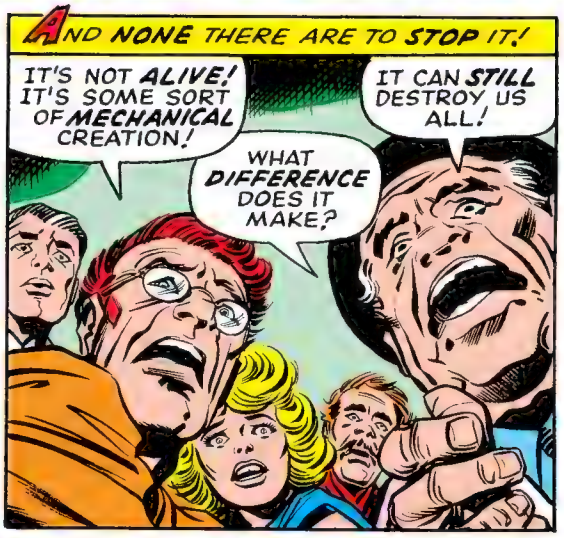
SO LONG AS THOU DOTH LIVE, THEN NONE CAN E'ER BE SAFE!

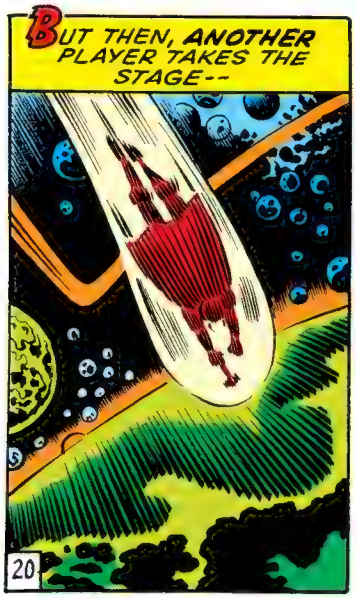
STAY YOUR HAMMER, THUNDER GOD! I HAVE NO WISH TO BATTLE!
GALACTUS IS WEARY--AND THE LONELINESS OF AGES RESTS HEAVY UPON ME!
THE HEART OF THOR IS TOUCHED!
THOU HATH MEANT NO HARM TO LIVING BEING!
BUT STILL HAVE PLANETS FALLEN BY THY HAND!
NOW--WHAT IS THOR TO DO?
ALL-FATHER ODIN!
THOU HATH DONE THY TASK--AND DONE IT WELL!
THY MISSION IS DONE--THY PENANCE SERVED!
THANKS TO THEE, MY PRINCE--I HAVE LEARNED WHAT I MUST KNOW!
GALACTUS' TIME IS NOT YET COME!
--BUT THERE BE NEED OF THEE ON PLANET EARTH!

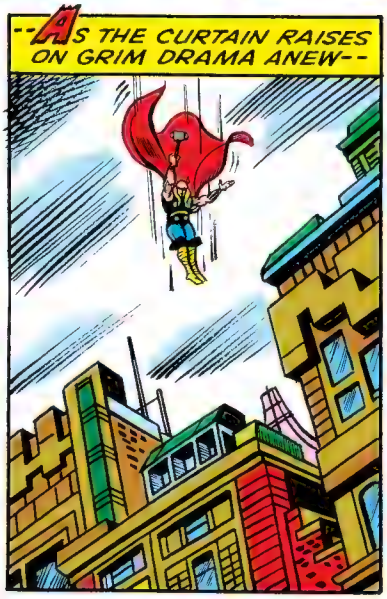
AND, EVEN AS THE SOVEREIGN SUPREME DISPATCHES MIGHTY THOR--
NO WEAPONS OF OURS CAN STOP THE THERMAL MAN!
IN THE ABSENCE OF THOR-- WHO STRIKES FOR MANKIND?
I SAY THEE BALDER-- AND HOGUN-- AND FANDRAL!
FORGET NOT VALIANT VOLSTAGG!
BUT, NOT EVEN THE WARRIORS FROM THE FABLED REALM CAN WITHSTAND THE MONSTER'S THERMAL BLAST--!
ONWARD, ASGARDIANS!
19


TRIUMPHANT, THE CREATURE STANDS-- SURVEYING ALL ABOUT HIM WITH EMOTIONLESS, UNFEELING EYES--
CREATED HALF A WORLD AWAY--TO BRING AMERICA TO ITS KNEES-- THE ARTIFICIAL BEING SWAYS, THEN TURNS--


--THEN LUMBERS ON--


AND NONE THERE ARE TO STOP IT!
IT'S NOT ALIVE! IT'S SOME SORT OF MECHANICAL CREATION!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
IT CAN STILL DESTROY US ALL!


BUT THEN, ANOTHER PLAYER TAKES THE STAGE--


--AS THE CURTAIN RAISES ON GRIM DRAMA ANEW--

FOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER STRIDES THE EARTH ONCE MORE!
NEXT
THUNDER OVER NEW YORK!

THOR
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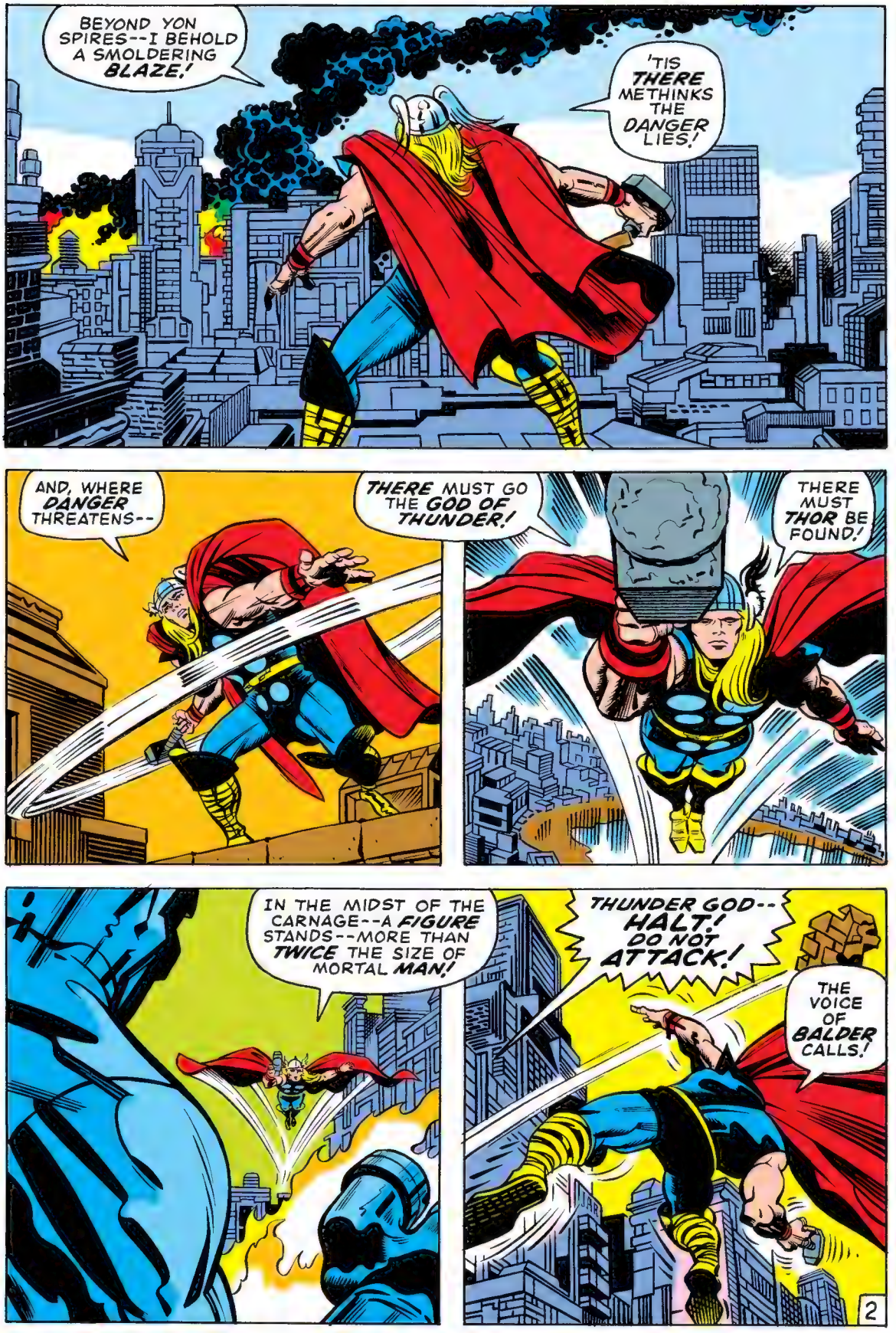
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
The INVASION OF THE THERMAL MAN!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
ROMITA/VERPOORTEN

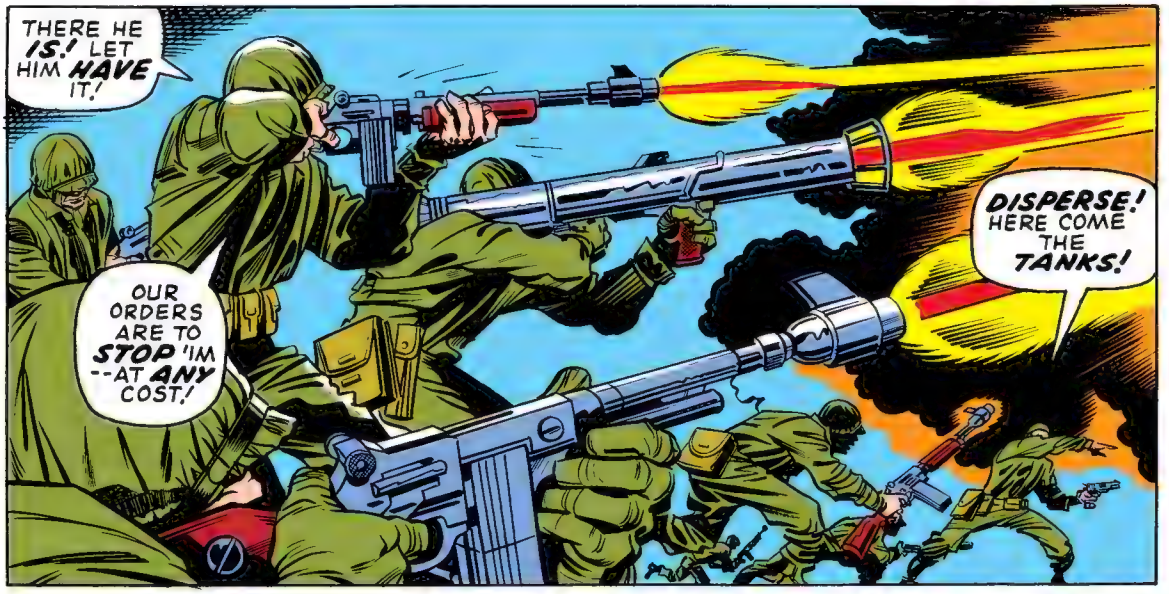
# THE MIGHTY THOR!™

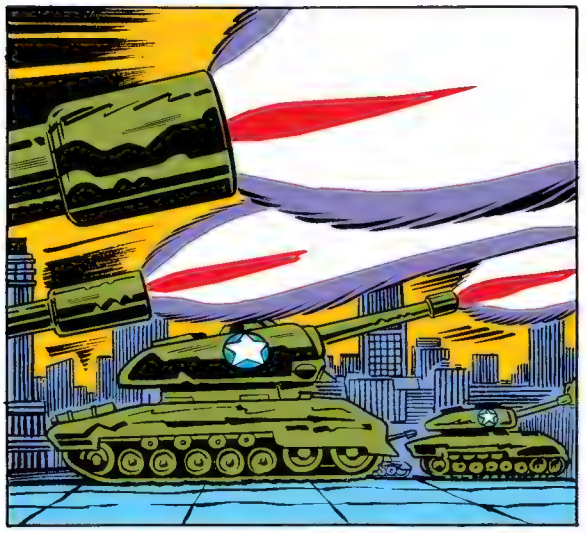
## THE THUNDER GOD AND THE THERMAL MAN!

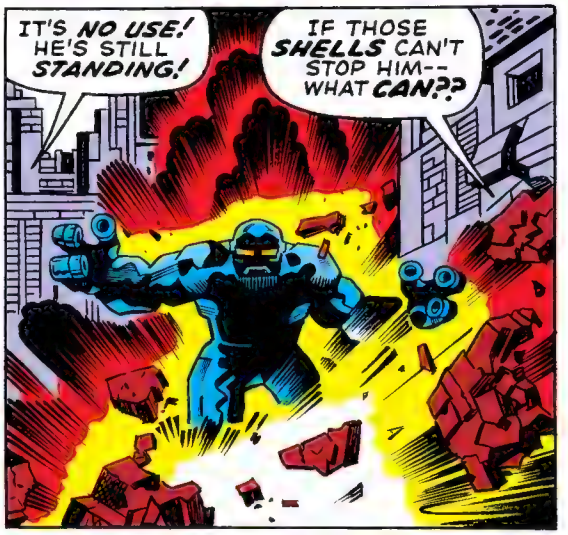
WHAT MONSTROUS MADNESS IS THIS?
I HAVE RETURNED TO EARTH, ONLY TO FIND ITS GREATEST CITY HATH BEEN EVACUATED!
'TIS AS THOUGH SOME DREADED MENACE DOTH NOW ATTACK NEW YORK!
A NEW ACTION SPECTACULAR, BY:
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
EMBELLISHMENT BY:
BILL EVERETT
LETTERING BY:
ARTIE SIMEK


BEYOND YON SPIRES--I BEHOLD A SMOLDERING BLAZE!
'TIS THERE METHINKS THE DANGER LIES!
AND, WHERE DANGER THREATENS--
THERE MUST GO THE GOD OF THUNDER!
THERE MUST THOR BE FOUND!
IN THE MIDST OF THE CARNAGE--A FIGURE STANDS--MORE THAN TWICE THE SIZE OF MORTAL MAN!
THUNDER GOD--HALT! DO NOT ATTACK!
THE VOICE OF BALDER CALLS!
2

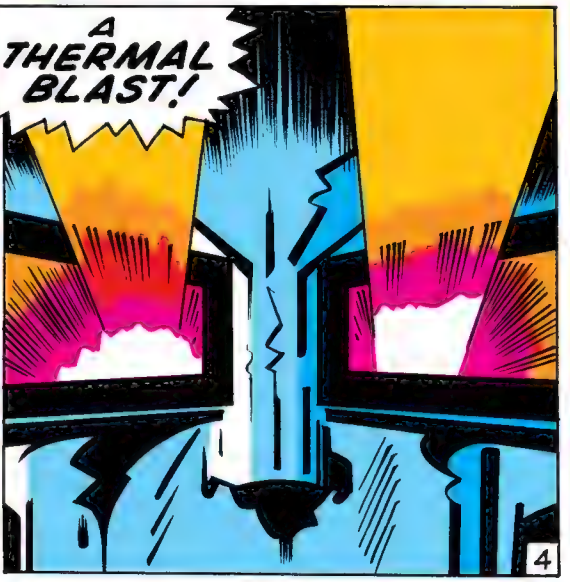
WARRIORS OF ASGARD! THOU HAST GUARDED EARTH WHILST THOR WAS GONE! FOR THIS I GIVE THEE THANKS!
BUT WHAT NEW MENACE STALKS THE LAND?
HE IS THE THERMAL MAN! AN ARTIFICIAL BEING-- POWERED BY AN EARTHLY ATOMIC PILE!
NOT EVEN OUR ASGARDIAN STRENGTH COULD MAKE HIM FALL!
IF VOLSTAGG CANNOT STOP HIM-- THEN HE TRULY BE UNSTOPPABLE!
THE ONLY POWER WHICH EXCEEDS OUR OWN IS THE POWER OF THE ATOM!
NEVER HAVE WE FACED SUCH FOE AS THIS!
BUT WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE? WHAT IS HIS PLAN?
HE WAS SENT TO ATTACK, TO WEAKEN THE FREE WORLD!
BUT NOT EVEN THOSE WHO CREATED HIM DREAMED THAT HIS POWER WOULD INCREASE WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND!
HE TURNS! HE SENSES DANGER FROM A DIFFERENT SOURCE!
3


THERE HE IS! LET HIM HAVE IT!
OUR ORDERS ARE TO STOP 'IM --AT ANY COST!
DISPERSE! HERE COME THE TANKS!



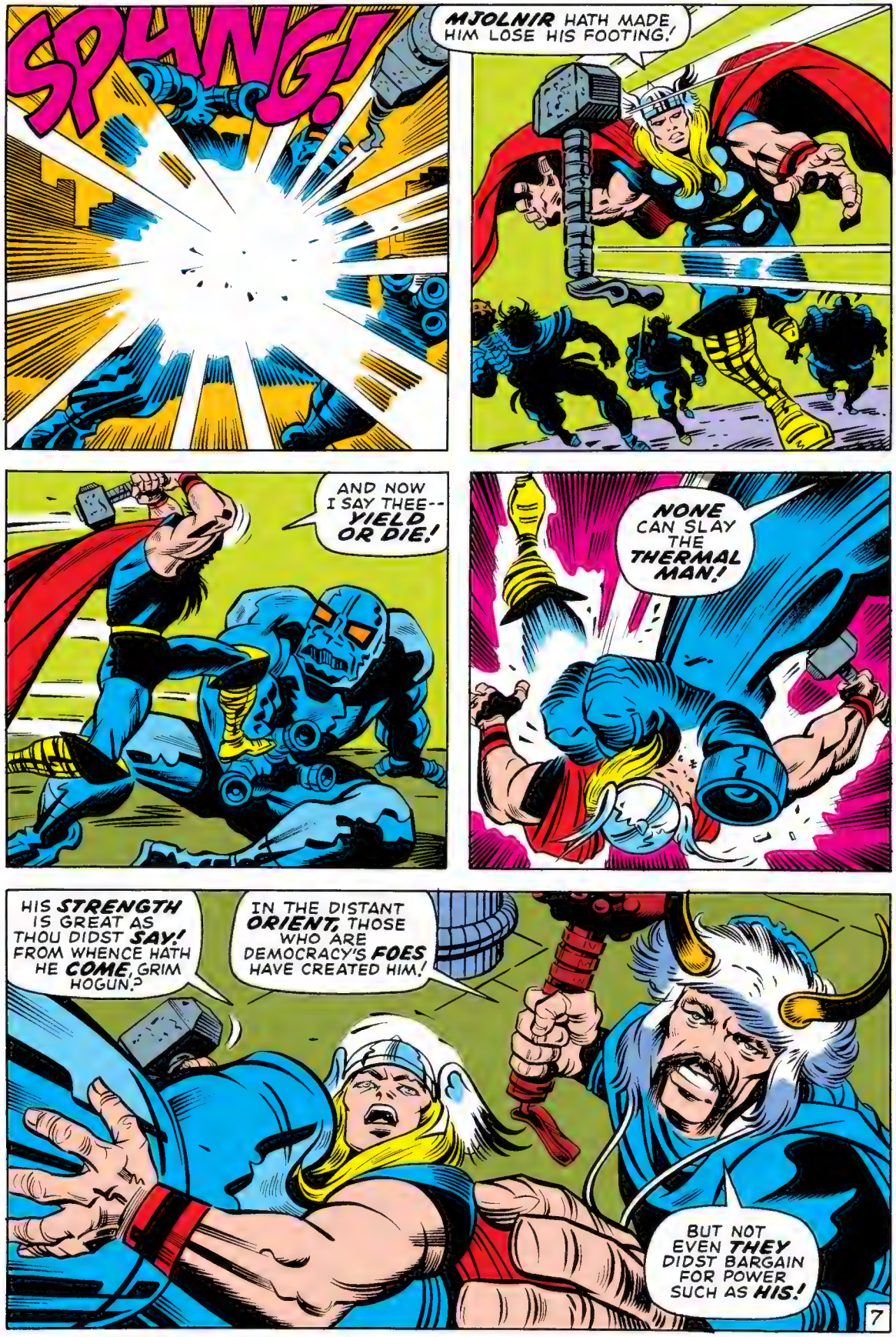

IT'S NO USE! HE'S STILL STANDING!
IF THOSE SHELLS CAN'T STOP HIM-- WHAT CAN??

TAKE COVER! HIS EYES ARE BEGINNING TO GLOW--!!
IT MEANS HE'S ABOUT TO UNLEASH--


A THERMAL BLAST!

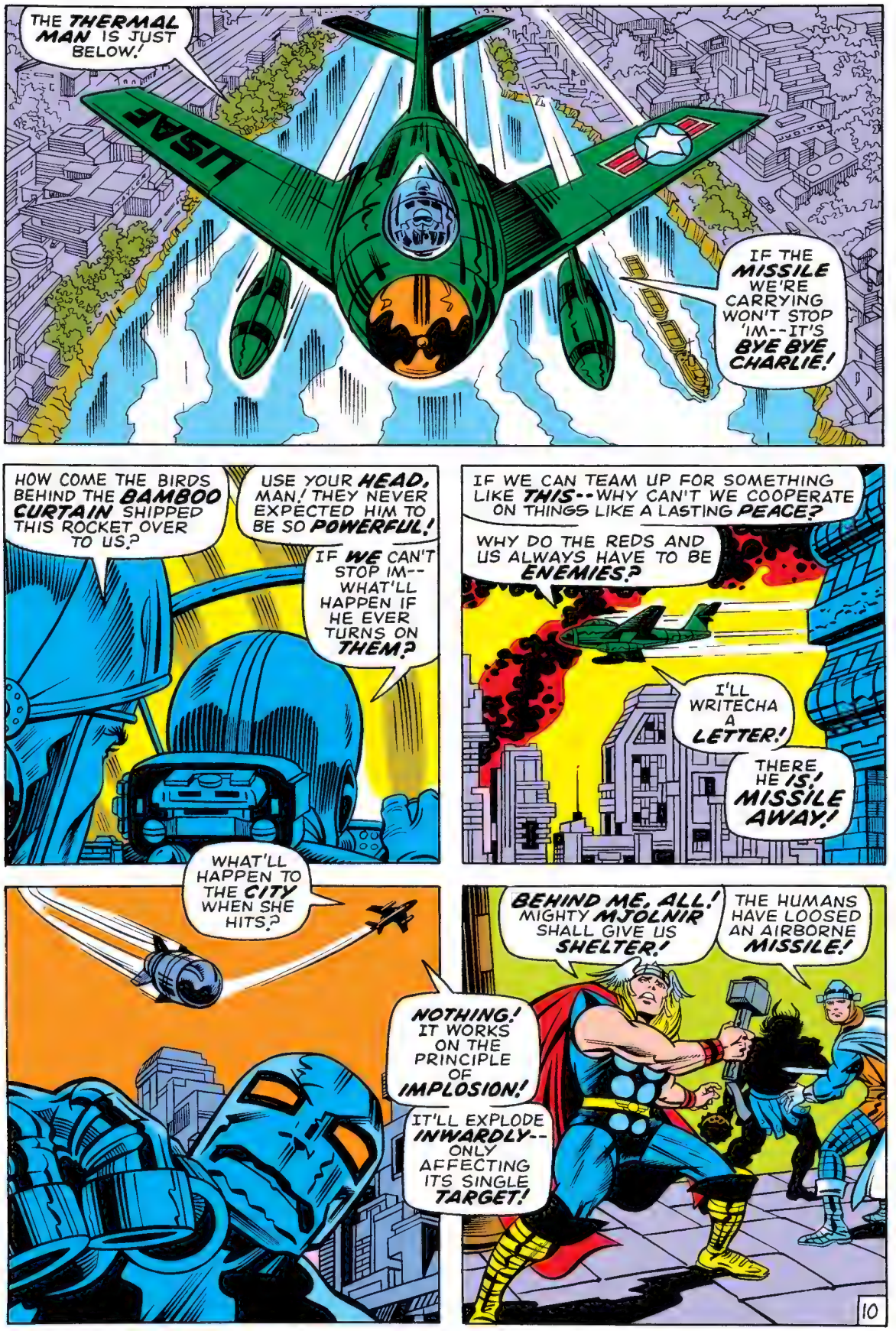
MOVE IT, YOU GUYS!! THE GROUND'S GETTING HOT-- STARTIN' TO TURN INTO LAVA!!
HE EVEN MANAGED TO MELT THE TANKS!
WATCH IT! LOOK OUT FOR THE SHOCK BLASTS!
IT'S HOPELESS! THERE'S NOTHING IN OUR ARSENAL CAN STOP HIM!
THE MORTALS ARE HELPLESS! THUS, 'TIS FOR US TO ACT!
SON OF ODIN--WE FOLLOW WHERE THOU WILT LEAD!
THEN WARRIORS ONWARD--!
5

LET EVIL TREMBLE!! LET FOES BEWARE!!
WE STRIKE FOR EARTH-- AND THE REALM ETERNAL!


SPANG!
MJOLNIR HATH MADE HIM LOSE HIS FOOTING!
AND NOW I SAY THEE-- YIELD OR DIE!
NONE CAN SLAY THE THERMAL MAN!
HIS STRENGTH IS GREAT AS THOU DIDST SAY! FROM WHENCE HATH HE COME, GRIM HOGUN?
IN THE DISTANT ORIENT, THOSE WHO ARE DEMOCRACY'S FOES HAVE CREATED HIM!
BUT NOT EVEN THEY DIDST BARGAIN FOR POWER SUCH AS HIS!
7

NOW LET HOGUN STRIKE, BEFORE HIS EYE CAN--
UNNHH!!
TOO LATE! NONE CAN FACE THE ONSLAUGHT OF HIS THERMAL EYE!
WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, I DO PERCEIVE NEW POWER-- NEW DANGER WHICH CONFRONTS US ALL!
THUNDER GOD, STAND FAST! FANDRAL NOW SHALL STRIKE!
I, WHOSE BLADE IS FASTEST IN THE REALM--
--SHALL USE MY SPEED AND DERRING-DO TO DODGE HIS BLASTS AND MAKE MY THRUST!
8

HE STRIKES --BUT FANDRAL MOVES THE FASTER!
NOW SHALT THOU TASTE MY NAKED STEEL--!
ODDS BLOOD! WHAT MANNER OF BEING DO WE FIGHT??
MY BLADE IS SHATTERED --LIKE A TOY!
AND FANDRAL TOO IS LIKEWISE HURLED AWAY!
WE NEED A PLAN, ASGARDIANS! OUR FORCE ALONE WILL NOT THIS TIME PREVAIL!
BUT HOLD! I HEAR A ROAR FROM HIGH ABOVE!
'TIS THE SOUND OF A SPEEDING AIRCRAFT!


THE THERMAL MAN IS JUST BELOW!
USAF
IF THE MISSILE WE'RE CARRYING WON'T STOP 'IM--IT'S BYE BYE CHARLIE!
HOW COME THE BIRDS BEHIND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN SHIPPED THIS ROCKET OVER TO US?
USE YOUR HEAD, MAN! THEY NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO BE SO POWERFUL!
IF WE CAN'T STOP IM--WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE EVER TURNS ON THEM?
IF WE CAN TEAM UP FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS--WHY CAN'T WE COOPERATE ON THINGS LIKE A LASTING PEACE?
WHY DO THE REDS AND US ALWAYS HAVE TO BE ENEMIES?
I'LL WRITECHA A LETTER!
THERE HE IS! MISSILE AWAY!
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THE CITY WHEN SHE HITS?
NOTHING! IT WORKS ON THE PRINCIPLE OF IMPLOSION!
IT'LL EXPLODE INWARDLY--ONLY AFFECTING ITS SINGLE TARGET!
BEHIND ME, ALL! MIGHTY MJOLNIR SHALL GIVE US SHELTER!
THE HUMANS HAVE LOOSED AN AIRBORNE MISSILE!
10

SQUARELY IT DOTH STRIKE ITS TARGET!

HE SWAYS! HE FALLS! THE DEED SEEMS DONE!

HATH HE BEEN-- DESTROYED?
SINCE HE HATH NEVER TRULY LIVED--HOW SHALL WE KNOW IF HE BE DEAD?

'TWERE BEST WE HERE STAND GUARD! FOR IF HE SHOULD AWAKEN--!
THOU SPEAKEST WISDOM, LOYAL BALDER!
BUT HOLD!! A CRY FOR HELP ASSAILS MINE EARS!

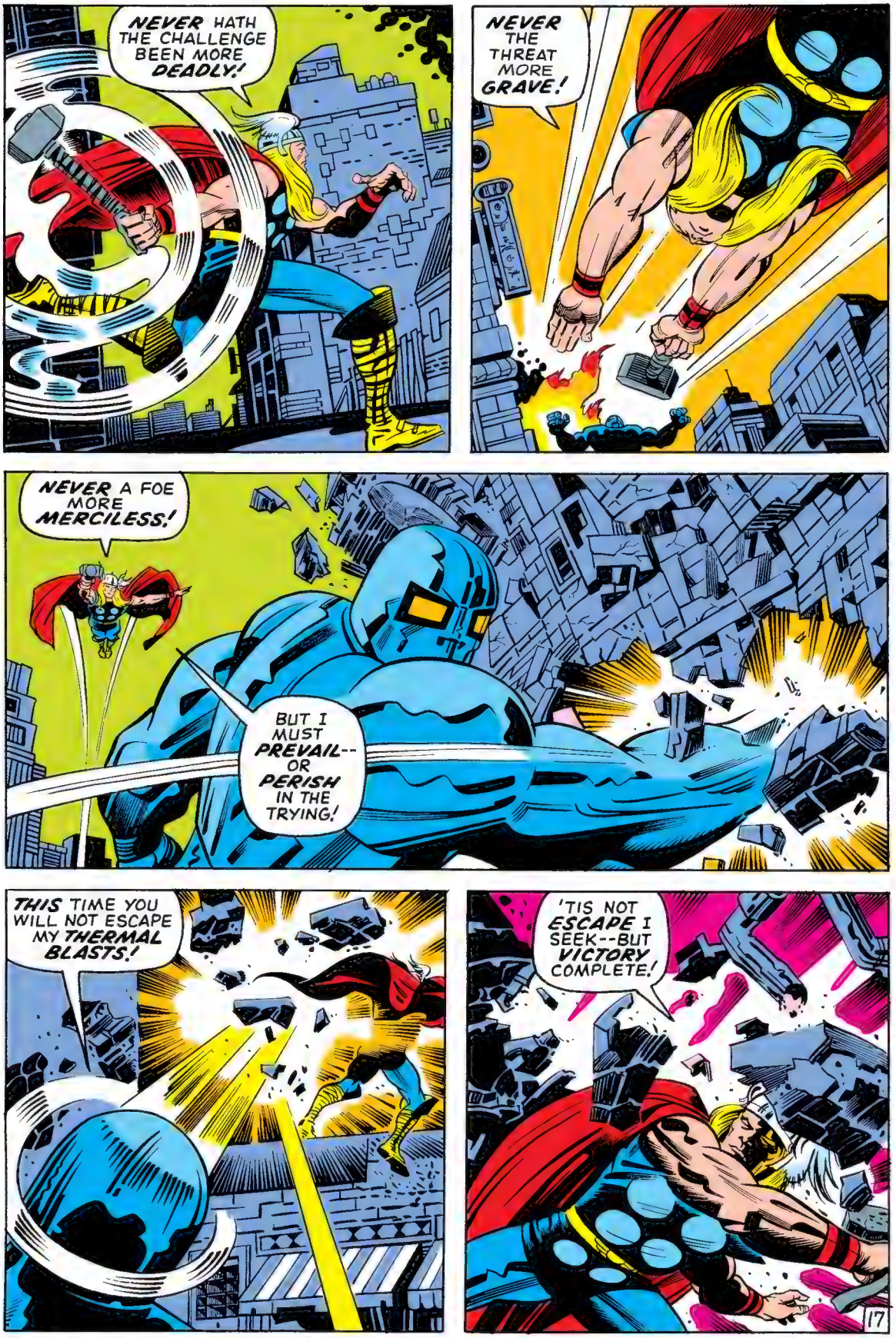
LET ALL STAND FAST! THOR SHALL RETURN!
IF THERE BE DANGER NEW-- I MUST SPEED TO IT POST HASTE!
A SERVICE-MAN-- IN MORTAL PAIN!
HE HATH BEEN GRAVELY INJURED!
'TIS NOT THOR'S STRENGTH THAT NOW IS WANTING--
--BUT THE SKILL OF DR. BLAKE!
EASY, SOLDIER! I'LL GET YOU TO THE NEAREST MEDICAL FIELD STATION AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!
HIS PULSE STILL FEELS STRONG
WITH LUCK, I'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM!
AND THEN I'LL RETURN TO THE THERMAL MAN!
12

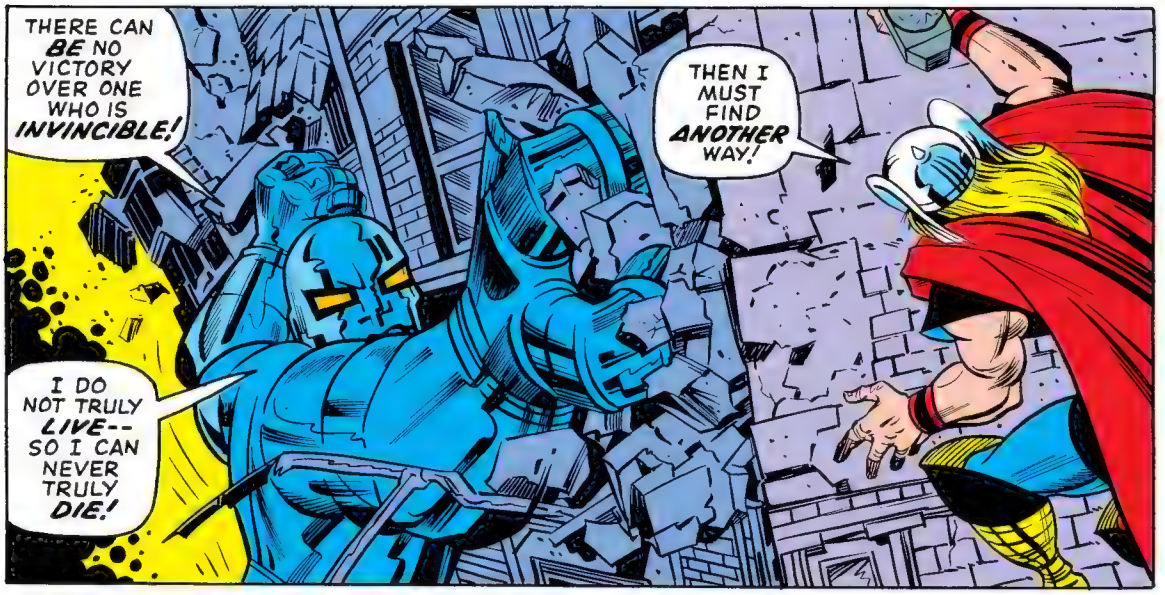
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE FALLEN MONSTER--
THOU ART LUCKY TO HAVE FALLEN ERE THOU COULDST FEEL THE MIGHT OF VOLSTAGG!
WITH BUT ONE SURE THRUST MY BLADE WOULD RUN THEE THRU!
VOLUMINOUS ONE, WHERE WAS THY BLADE WHEN IT WAS NEEDED MOST?
WHAT?? THINKEST THOU I CANNOT ANSWER??
I DID BUT AWAIT THE PROPER MOMENT--LEST THOU ACCUSE ME OF WINNING THE VICTORY SINGLEHANDED!
BUT EVER DID I KNOW MY STRENGTH COULD CRUSH YON COWARDLY MONSTER!
FOR ONLY MY COURAGE DOTH EXCEED MY POWER!
THEN USE ONE OR THE OTHER, WARRIOR! FOR OUR FOE ONCE MORE ARISES!
THEN CHARGE, ASGARDIANS! I HAVE WEARIED MYSELF WITH TALKING!

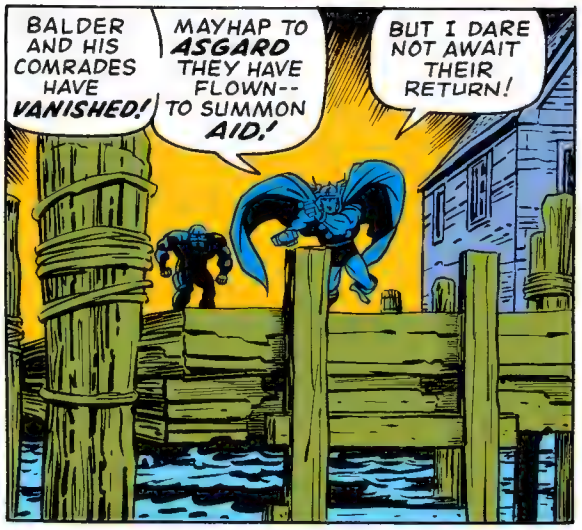
AT THAT MOMENT--MANY WORLDS AWAY--OTHER EYES OBSERVE THE SCENE, IN THE ENCHANTED POOL OF KARNILLA, QUEEN OF THE MYSTIC NORNS--
THEY POSSESS NOT THE POWER TO SLAY THE THERMAL MAN!
THEN LET THEM FALL--FOR THEY BE NOT FRIENDS TO ME OR THEE!
AND WITH THEM GONE, OUR ENEMIES SHALL BE FEWER!
QUEEN OF ENCHANTMENT, WHY DOST THOU LOOK SO WISTFUL?
THOUGH BALDER DOTH NOT RETURN MY LOVE--I CANNOT LET HIM PERISH!
KARNILLA--STOP!!
NOT EVEN FOR THEE, PRINCE OF EVIL!
ONE MYSTIC SPELL--CAST INTO THE WATERS OF MY GLEAMING POOL--AND THE DEED IS DONE!
ART THOU MAD! WOULDST THOU SAVE THOSE WHO ARE PLEDGED TO DESTROY THEE??
14

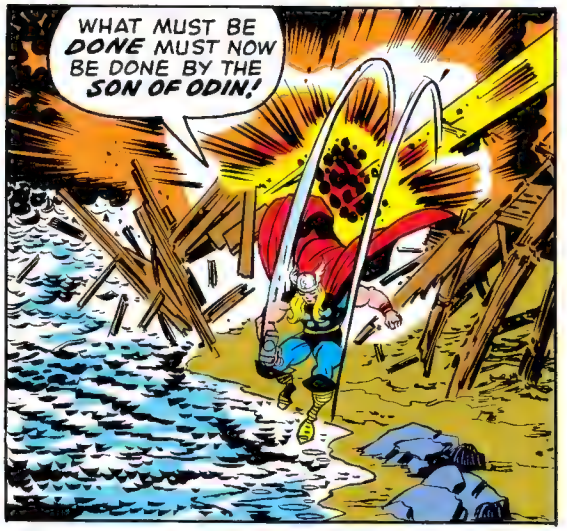
I AM KARNILLA--QUEEN OF THE NORNS--ENCHANTRESS SUPREME!
BUT, I AM A WOMAN FIRST!
A WOMAN WHO SAVES THE ONE SHE LOVES!
YOU HAVE BROUGHT THEM HERE--AGAINST MY WISHES! NO LONGER CANST THOU BE LOKI'S ALLY!
THEN TO THEE, MY PRINCE, I SAY-- BEGONE!
FEMALE, THOU WILT RUE THIS DAY!
THE MEMORY OF LOKI IS LONGER THAN TIME!
SOONER OR LATER THOU SHALT RETURN! OUR LIVES ARE LINKED IN BONDS OF EVIL!

WHILE, BACK ON EARTH--
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW, SOLDIER!
YEAH, THANKS TO YOU, DOC.! IT WAS LUCKY YOU FOUND ME WHEN YOU DID!
IF YOU WERE IN THE AREA NEAR THE THERMAL MAN, YOU MUST LEAD A CHARMED LIFE, BLAKE!
NOBODY WAS SAFE WHILE THAT CHARACTER WAS STORMING AROUND!
AT ANY RATE HE'S FINISHED NOW!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE WRONG, DOC! WE JUST GOT A REPORT--THE MONSTER'S ALIVE AGAIN!
NO! IF--HE SURVIVED THAT MISSILE--WE'VE NOTHING LEFT TO STOP HIM!
DR. BLAKE! HOLD ON! COME BACK! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!
NEVER MIND ME! JUST CLEAR THE AREA, SOLDIER!
DONALD BLAKE CAN'T HOPE TO REACH HIM SOON ENOUGH--
BUT--
--THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN!
16


NEVER HATH THE CHALLENGE BEEN MORE DEADLY!
NEVER THE THREAT MORE GRAVE!
NEVER A FOE MORE MERCILESS!
BUT I MUST PREVAIL-- OR PERISH IN THE TRYING!
THIS TIME YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE MY THERMAL BLASTS!
'TIS NOT ESCAPE I SEEK--BUT VICTORY COMPLETE!


THERE CAN BE NO VICTORY OVER ONE WHO IS INVINCIBLE!
I DO NOT TRULY LIVE-- SO I CAN NEVER TRULY DIE!
THEN I MUST FIND ANOTHER WAY!


BALDER AND HIS COMRADES HAVE VANISHED!
MAYHAP TO ASGARD THEY HAVE FLOWN-- TO SUMMON AID!
BUT I DARE NOT AWAIT THEIR RETURN!

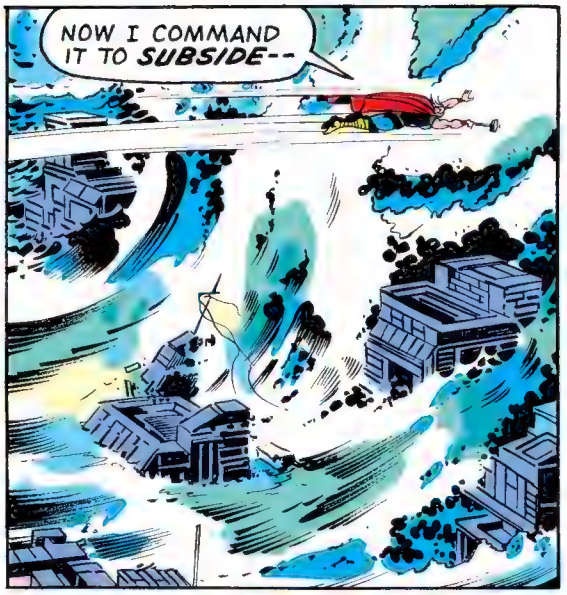

WHAT MUST BE DONE MUST NOW BE DONE BY THE SON OF ODIN!

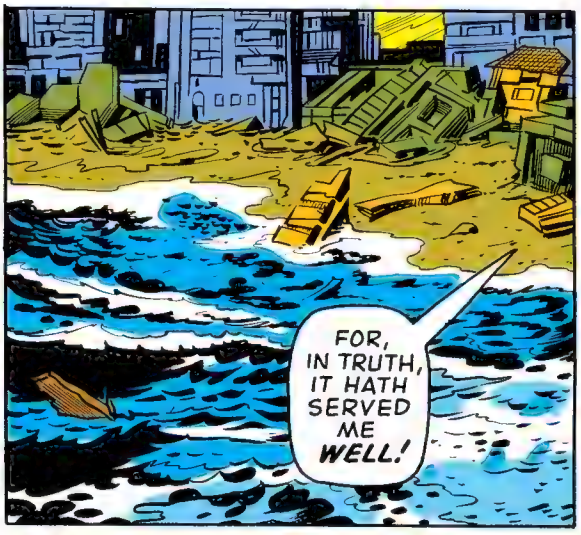
NOT FOR NAUGHT IS THOR THE LORD OF STORM AND LIGHTNING!

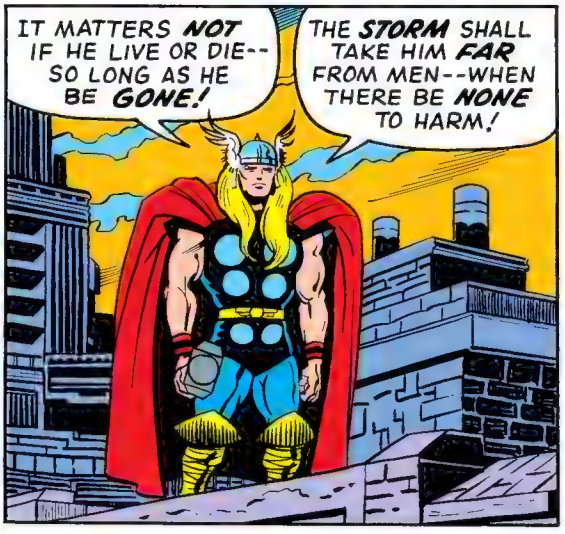
NOT FOR NAUGHT IS THOR THE GOD OF THUNDER!

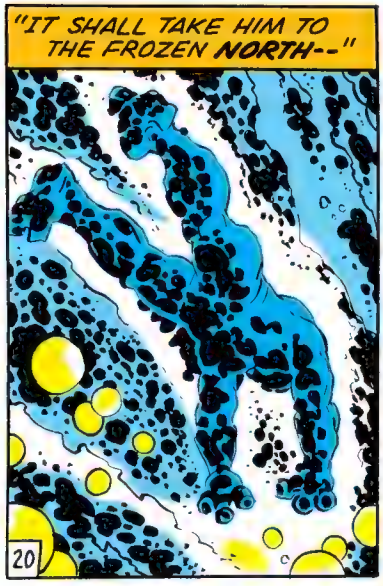
LET THE STORM CLOUDS GATHER!! LET THE HEAVENS GROW DARK!!
LET THE OCEAN SWELL-- AND THE TYPHOON ROAR!!
LET THINE EYES BE BLINDED BY THE STORM!!
SO THOU CANST NOT HURL THY THERMAL BLAST!
SO SPEAKS THE GOD OF THUNDER!
19

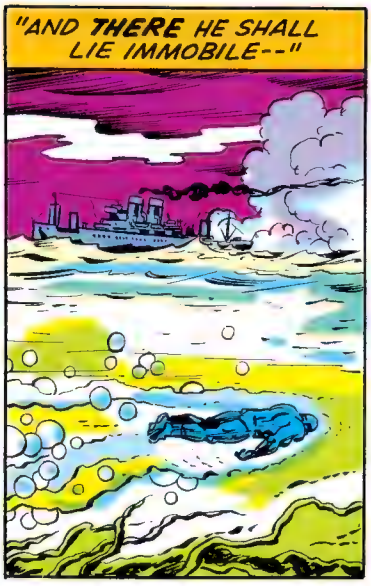
SINCE THOR CAN FLY AND HE CANNOT--THE TIDAL WAVE HATH ENGULFED HIM!


NOW I COMMAND IT TO SUBSIDE--

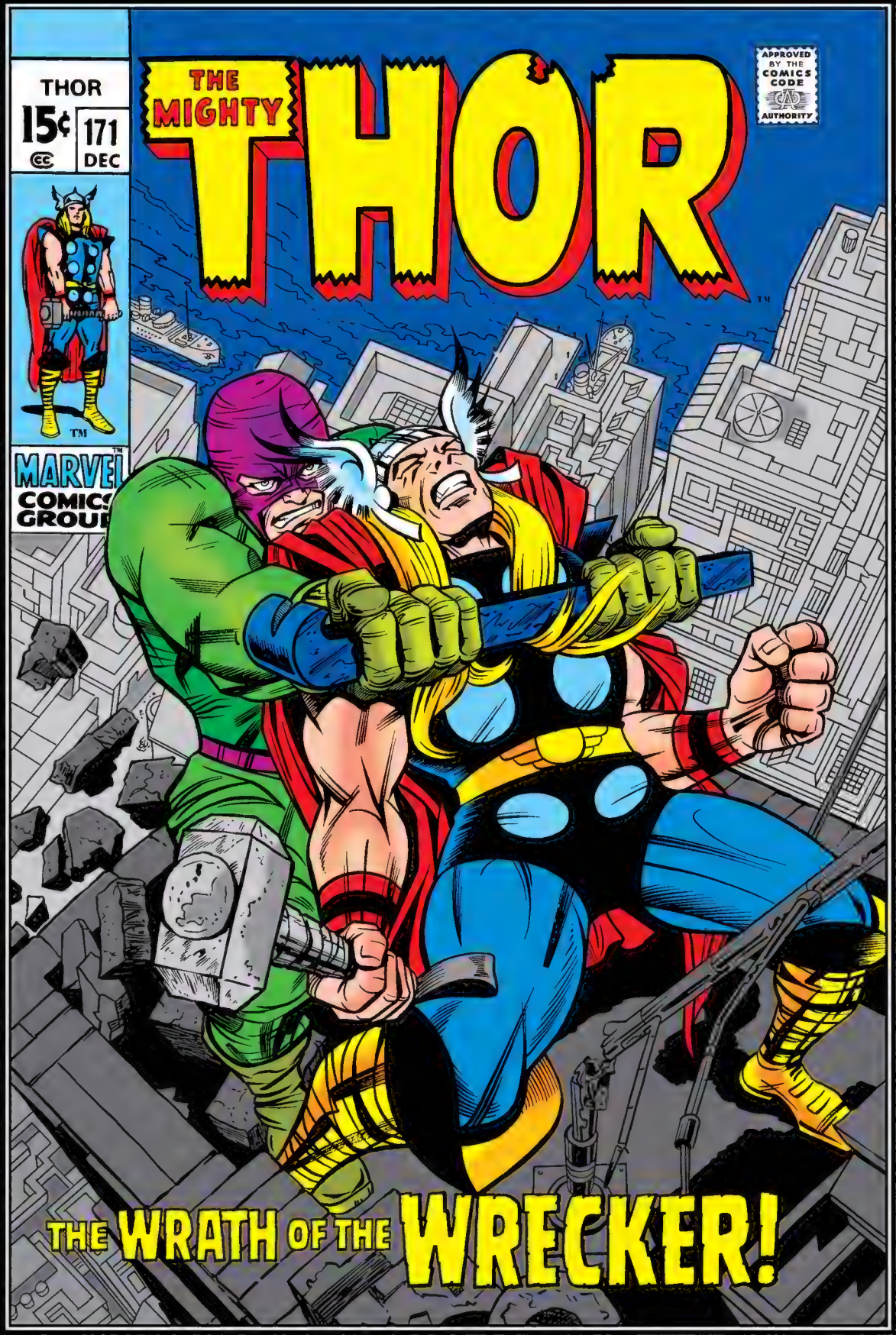

FOR, IN TRUTH, IT HATH SERVED ME WELL!


IT MATTERS NOT IF HE LIVE OR DIE-- SO LONG AS HE BE GONE!
THE STORM SHALL TAKE HIM FAR FROM MEN--WHEN THERE BE NONE TO HARM!


"IT SHALL TAKE HIM TO THE FROZEN NORTH--"
20


"AND THERE HE SHALL LIE IMMOBILE--"

"--TILL THE VERY END OF TIME!"
THE WRATH OF...
NEXT
THE WRECKER!


THOR
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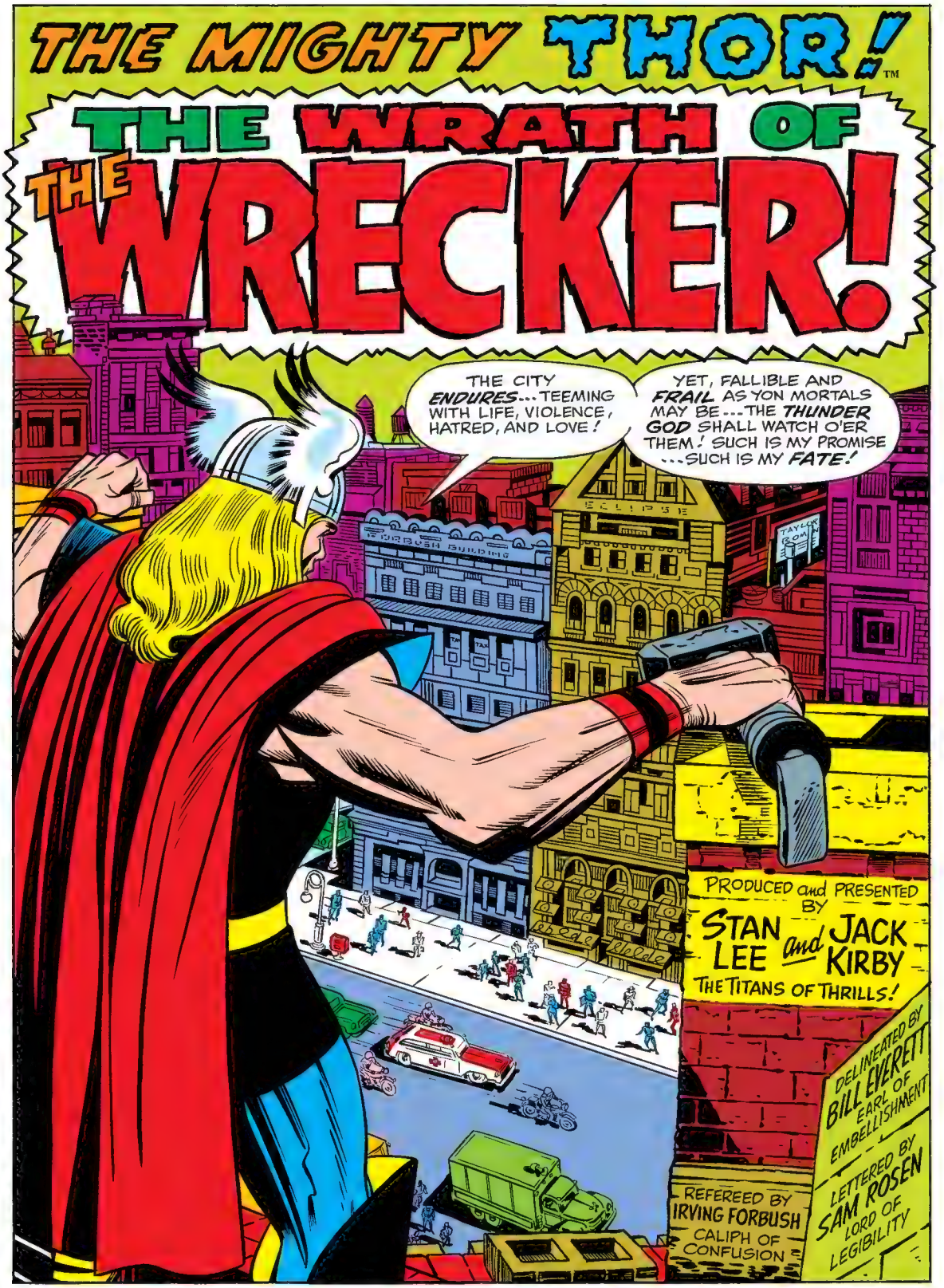
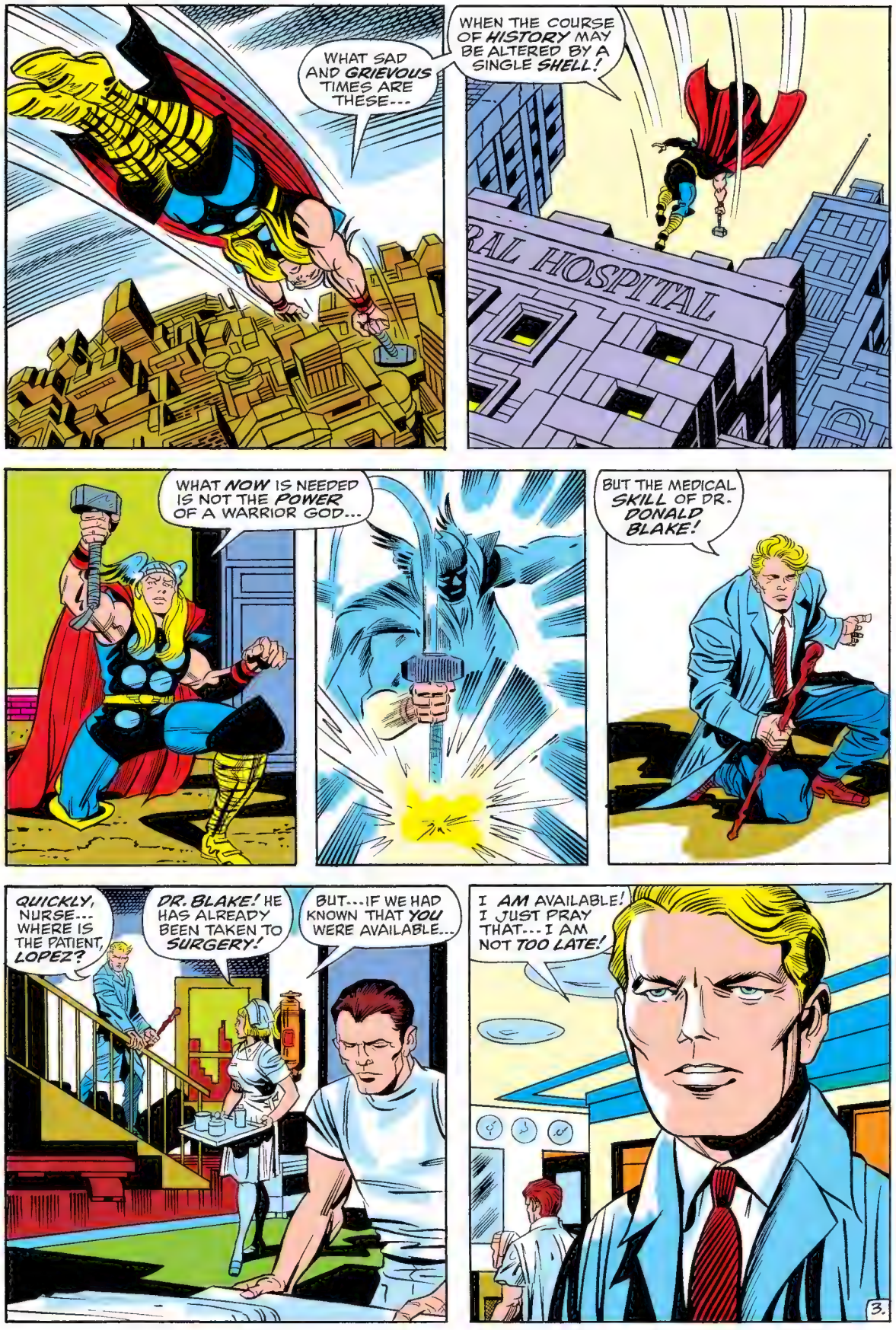
DEC
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE WRATH OF THE WRECKER!

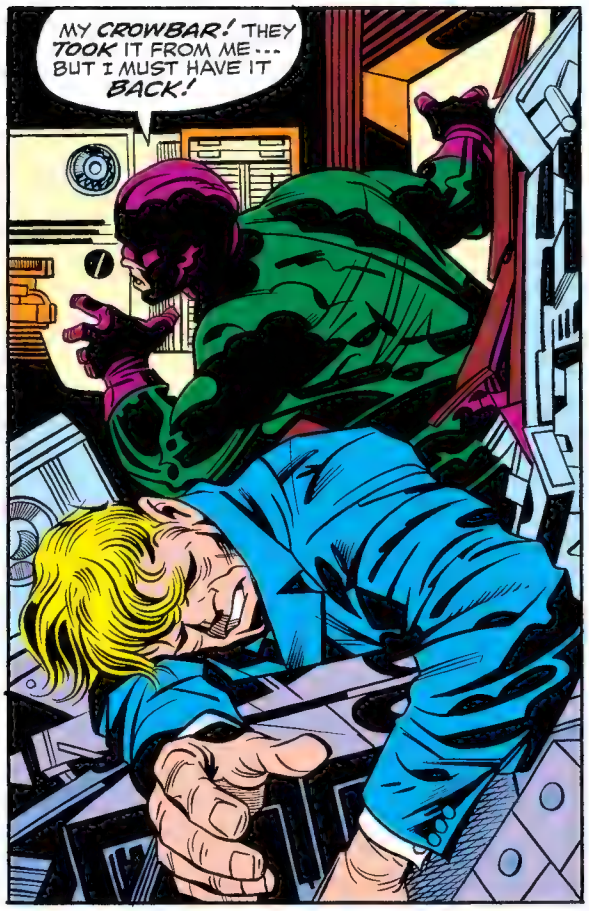

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
THE WRATH OF THE WRECKER!
THE CITY ENDURES... TEEMING WITH LIFE, VIOLENCE, HATRED, AND LOVE!
YET, FALLIBLE AND FRAIL AS YON MORTALS MAY BE... THE THUNDER GOD SHALL WATCH O'ER THEM! SUCH IS MY PROMISE ...SUCH IS MY FATE!
ECLIPSE
FORBUSH BUILDING
TAYLOR ROOMS
PRODUCED and PRESENTED BY
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
THE TITANS OF THRILLS!
DELINEATED BY BILL EVERETT EARL OF EMBELLISHMENT
LETTERED BY SAM ROSEN LORD OF LEGIBILITY
REFEREED BY IRVING FORBUSH CALIPH OF CONFUSION

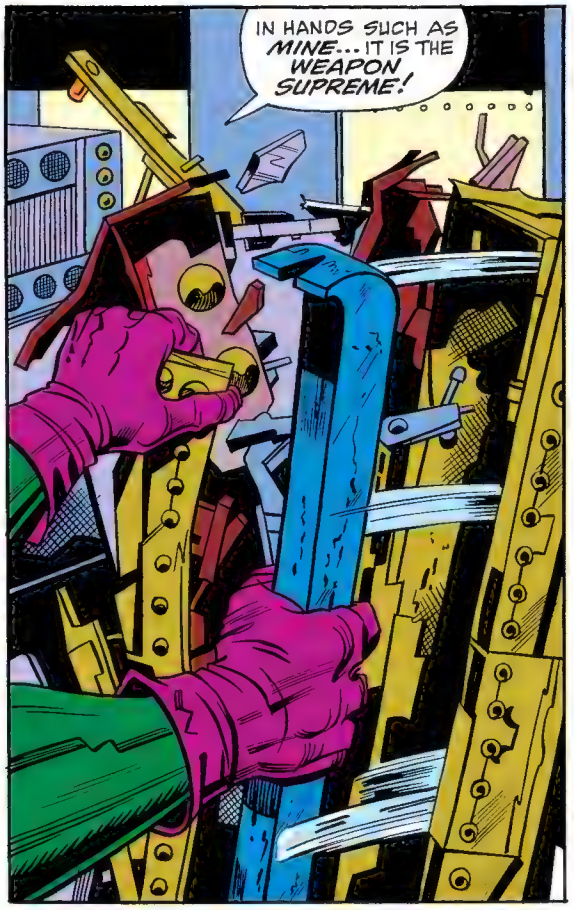
NEVER HAS THE CITY BEEN MORE TENSE--- NEVER HAVE THE PEOPLE BEEN MORE FEARFUL---MORE DIVIDED!
FOR, TRUE HAPPINESS DOTH SEEM TO ELUDE THEM ALL---THE RICH, THE POOR--THE WHITE, THE BLACK!
YET, SUCH IS THE NATURE OF LIFE--- FOR NOT E'EN THE GODS THEMSELVES KNOW TRUE CONTENTMENT!
BUT HOLD! WHAT DO I HEAR FROM YON WINDOW BELOW?
---ALTHOUGH POLICE HAVE CAPTURED THE GUNMAN, HIS FAMOUS VICTIM IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION!
ONLY A MADMAN WOULD HAVE SHOT PEDRO LUIS LOPEZ!
IF HE DIES, THE ENTIRE CITY WILL BE UP IN ARMS!
I HAVE HEARD OF THIS MAN, LOPEZ!
HE IS AMONG THE MOST DEDICATED--- THE MOST BELOVED OF ALL THOSE WHO CRUSADE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS!
SUCH A MAN WOULD BE SORELY MISSED! SUCH A MAN MUST NOT FIND DEATH BEFORE HIS TIME!
IF HIS CONDITION BE NOT HOPELESS, THEN I DO SWEAR---HE SHALL NOT DIE!
2.


WHAT SAD AND GRIEVOUS TIMES ARE THESE---
WHEN THE COURSE OF HISTORY MAY BE ALTERED BY A SINGLE SHELL!
RAL HOSPITAL
WHAT NOW IS NEEDED IS NOT THE POWER OF A WARRIOR GOD...
BUT THE MEDICAL SKILL OF DR. DONALD BLAKE!
QUICKLY, NURSE... WHERE IS THE PATIENT, LOPEZ?
DR. BLAKE! HE HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO SURGERY!
BUT---IF WE HAD KNOWN THAT YOU WERE AVAILABLE...
I AM AVAILABLE! I JUST PRAY THAT--- I AM NOT TOO LATE!
3.

SECONDS LATER---
SORRY FOR THIS SEARCH, DOCTOR---BUT WE CAN TAKE NO CHANCES!
BLAKE! THANK HEAVEN THAT YOU'RE HERE!
---THE BULLET IS LODGED PRECARIOUSLY CLOSE TO HIS HEART!
GENTLEMEN, IF I MAY BE ALLOWED TO ASSIST?
ASSIST? YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN ALIVE WITH SKILL ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB!
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED, BLAKE--- ABOUT YOUR LONG, UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES!
I SUPPOSE IT'S THE STRAIN OF YOUR WORK! AFTER AN OPERATION SUCH AS THIS, YOU'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!
YES, DOCTOR--- SOMETIMES---I HAVE TO GET AWAY!
BUT NOW...ALL THAT MATTERS IS---THE PATIENT!
YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM! IF HE DIES---THE CITY WILL BE TORN BY RIOTS!
I WOULD FIGHT TO SAVE HIM EVEN IF HIS PASSING WOULD BE UNNOTICED BY A SINGLE MAN!
HE IS A HUMAN BEING--- AND AS SUCH, HIS LIFE IS SACRED!
4

MEANWHILE, IN STILL ANOTHER HOSPITAL, IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, GRIM-FACED MEN TENSELY GUARD ANOTHER PATIENT--- PERHAPS THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE ON EARTH---!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE CAN'T KEEP HIM UNDER SEDATION FOREVER!
WE HAVE TO! IF THE TRANQUILIZERS EVER WEAR OFF...WE'VE HAD IT!
THIS IS A JOB FOR THE ARMY ...NOT US!
THEY'RE WORKING ON IT NOW... TRYING TO FIND SOME SORT OF ISOLATED ISLAND THEY CAN TAKE HIM TO!
SURE! THAT'S THE ONLY ANSWER! THEN, EVEN IF HE BREAKS OUT... THERE'S NO PLACE HE CAN GO!
ALTHOUGH WE'RE JUST TOO JUMPY! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BREAK OUT OF HERE!
THE ONLY THING I WORRY ABOUT IS... WHAT IF HE STARTS GETTING IMMUNE TO THOSE TRANQUILIZERS?
SKRAKK-K-K!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT NOI--??
LOOK OUT! HE'S LOOSE!
AND, I WILL NEVER BE CAPTURED AGAIN!
5


MY CROWBAR! THEY TOOK IT FROM ME--- BUT I MUST HAVE IT BACK!

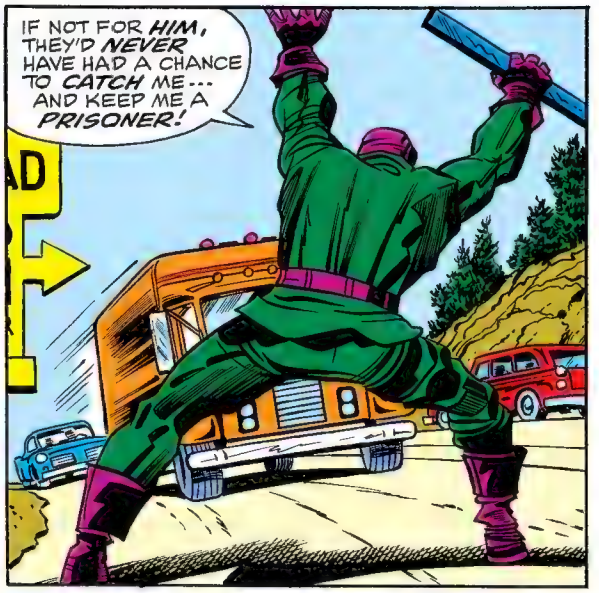

IN HANDS SUCH AS MINE... IT IS THE WEAPON SUPREME!

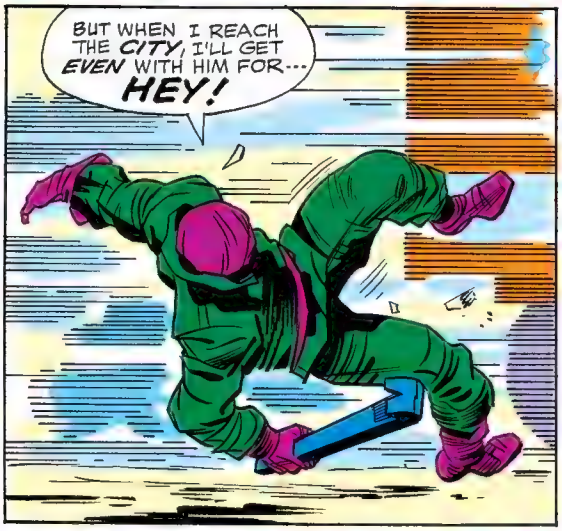
NOW, TAKE WARNING, YOU FOOLS...

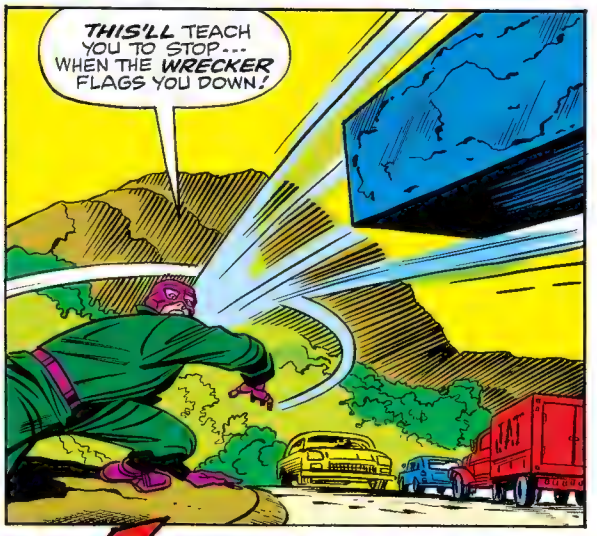
NO POWER ON EARTH CAN STAND AGAINST... THE WRECKER!

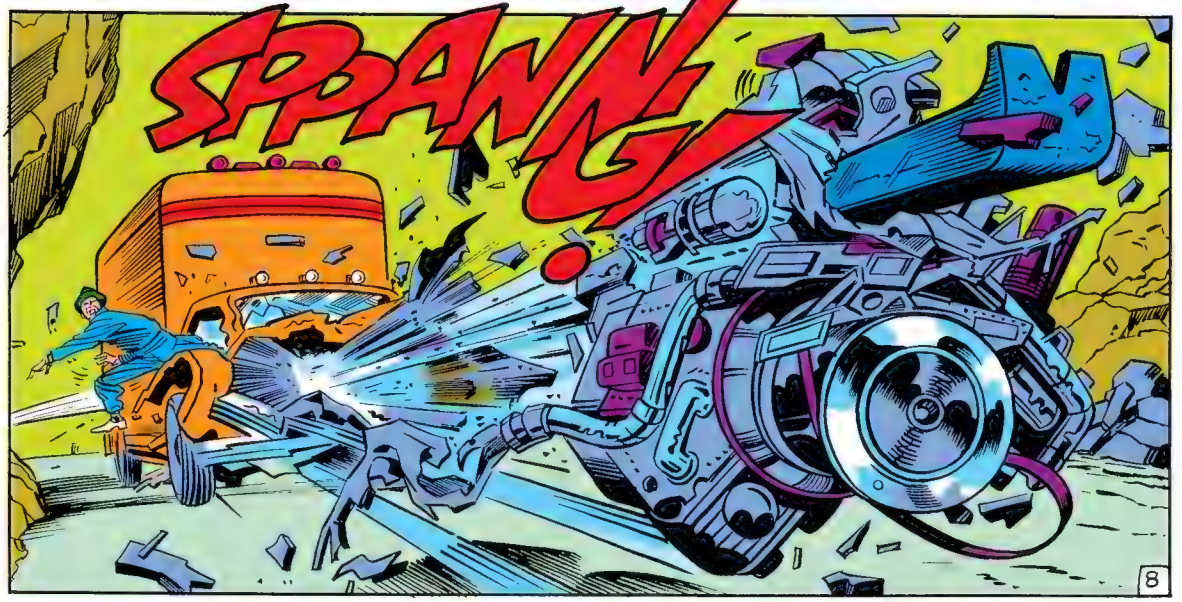
WHAT GOOD DO YOU EXPECT THOSE PUNY GUNS TO DO YOU--?
...WHEN I CAN SHATTER THE WALLS WITH A SINGLE BLOW!
NOTHING THAT'S HUMAN CAN HOPE TO STAND IN MY WAY!
...FOR THE POWER I POSSESS IS THAT OF... AN IMMORTAL!
IT'S THE POWER THAT WAS INTENDED FOR LOKI HIMSELF... BUT, BECAUSE OF A LUCKY ACCIDENT... IT'S MINE INSTEAD!*
*NO LOYAL THOROPHILE HAS TO BE REMINDED THAT IT ALL HAPPENED IN ISH #148! ...STAN.
THERE HE IS! QUICK... WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM SURROUNDED!
LOOK HOW HE STANDS THERE... AS THOUGH IT'S HIM WHO'S THREATENING US!
I'VE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ANY OF YOU!
YOU FOOLS JUST NEVER LEARN, DO YOU?
IT IS ME...IT'S THE WRECKER WHO'S THE THREAT!
BUT I'M NOT JUST THREATENING YOU...
I'M GONNA TRAMPLE OVER THE WHOLE BLASTED EARTH...
...TILL I GET MY FINAL REVENGE ON...THOR!
BURROOM!!

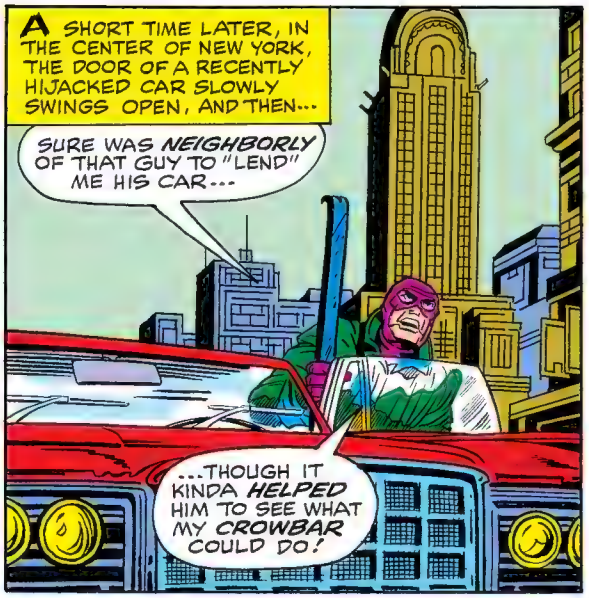
IT WAS THOR WHO FOUGHT ME--- WHO BEAT ME--- WHEN I FIRST GOT MY POWER!


IF NOT FOR HIM, THEY'D NEVER HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CATCH ME--- AND KEEP ME A PRISONER!


BUT WHEN I REACH THE CITY, I'LL GET EVEN WITH HIM FOR--- HEY!

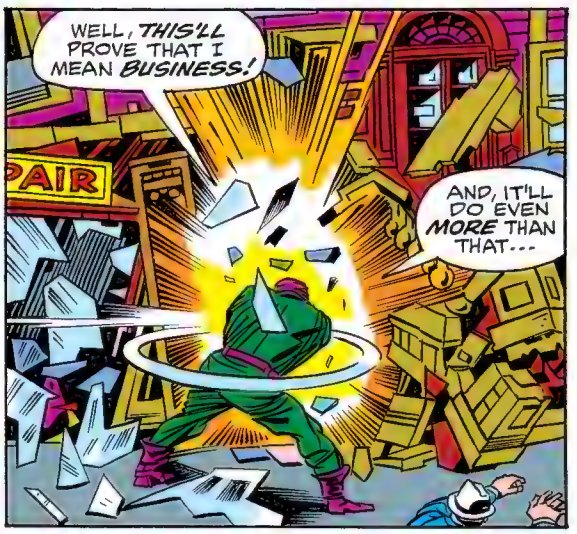

THIS'LL TEACH YOU TO STOP--- WHEN THE WRECKER FLAGS YOU DOWN!


SPAWNG!

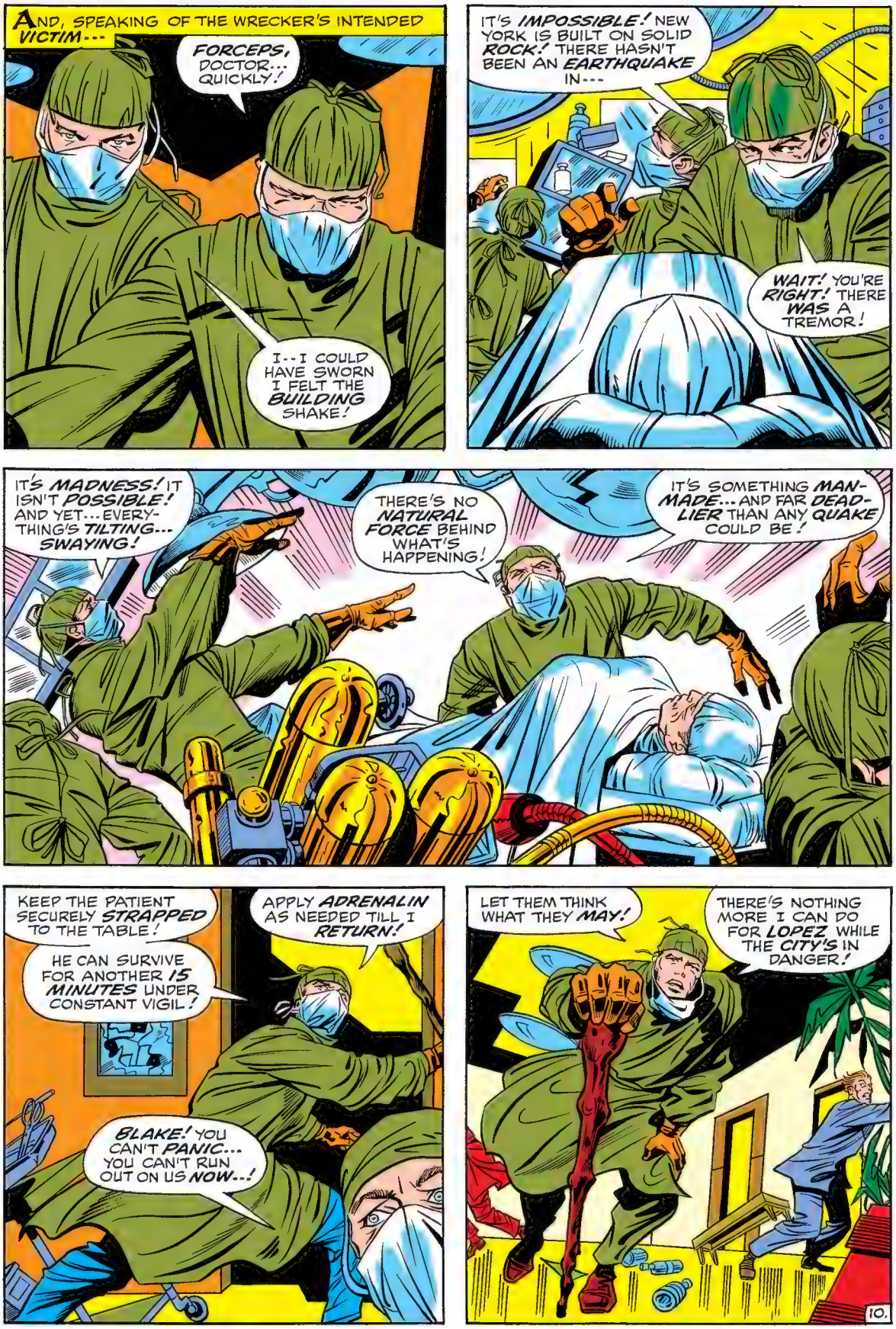

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE CENTER OF NEW YORK, THE DOOR OF A RECENTLY HIJACKED CAR SLOWLY SWINGS OPEN, AND THEN...
SURE WAS NEIGHBORLY OF THAT GUY TO "LEND" ME HIS CAR...
...THOUGH IT KINDA HELPED HIM TO SEE WHAT MY CROWBAR COULD DO!

GET OFF THE STREETS... EVERYONE!
THE WRECKER'S TAKING OVER NOW!

I SEE YOU WHISPERING TO EACH OTHER... POINTING AT ME LIKE I'M SOME KINDA NUT! ME... THE WRECKER... THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL!

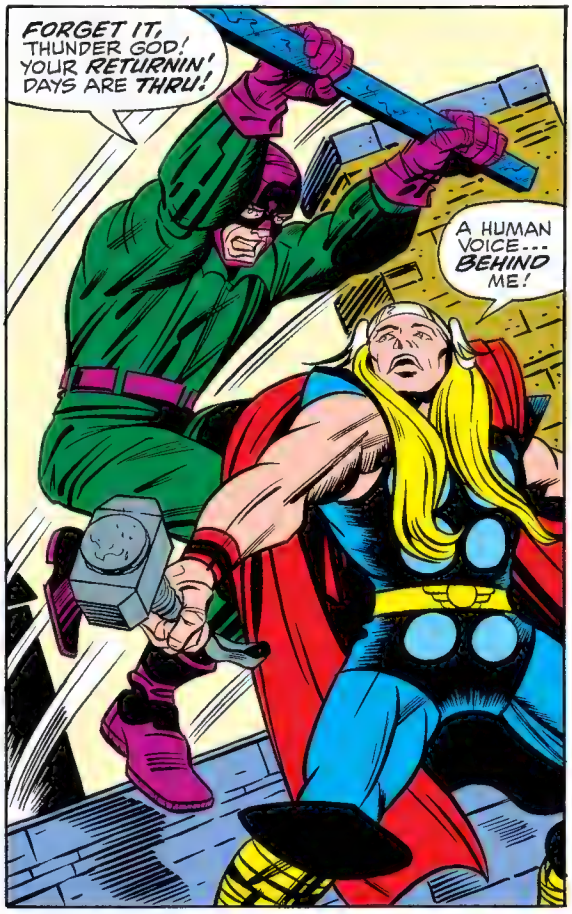

WELL, THIS'LL PROVE THAT I MEAN BUSINESS!
AND, IT'LL DO EVEN MORE THAN THAT...

IF HE'S ANYWHERE NEAR THE CITY... IT'LL BRING THOR A'RUNNING!
AND THAT'S WHAT I WANT MOST OF ALL!
9.


AND, SPEAKING OF THE WRECKER'S INTENDED VICTIM---
FORCEPS, DOCTOR... QUICKLY!
I--I COULD HAVE SWORN I FELT THE BUILDING SHAKE!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NEW YORK IS BUILT ON SOLID ROCK! THERE HASN'T BEEN AN EARTHQUAKE IN---
WAIT! YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE WAS A TREMOR!
IT'S MADNESS! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! AND YET... EVERYTHING'S TILTING... SWAYING!
THERE'S NO NATURAL FORCE BEHIND WHAT'S HAPPENING!
IT'S SOMETHING MAN-MADE... AND FAR DEADLIER THAN ANY QUAKE COULD BE!
KEEP THE PATIENT SECURELY STRAPPED TO THE TABLE!
APPLY ADRENALIN AS NEEDED TILL I RETURN!
HE CAN SURVIVE FOR ANOTHER 15 MINUTES UNDER CONSTANT VIGIL!
BLAKE! YOU CAN'T PANIC... YOU CAN'T RUN OUT ON US NOW--!
LET THEM THINK WHAT THEY MAY!
THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO FOR LOPEZ WHILE THE CITY'S IN DANGER!

THERE'S SOMETHING SINISTER... SOMETHING DEADLY GOING ON OUT THERE...
AND, WHATEVER IT MAY BE...
THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST FACE IT... AND VANQUISH IT, ALONE!
AND NOW... IN THE NAME OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN...
THOR FLIES TO BATTLE ONCE MORE!
THE QUAKING DOTH NOW SUBSIDE...
AS THOUGH SOME UNKNOWN FOE AWAITS MY COMING!
THE POWER OF ENCHANTED MJOLNIR HATH BROUGHT ME TO THIS SPOT!
ONLY THOSE BELOW WHO FLEE IN FEAR, AS FROM SOME NAMELESS FATE!
AND YET... NO ENEMY DO I BEHOLD!
11.

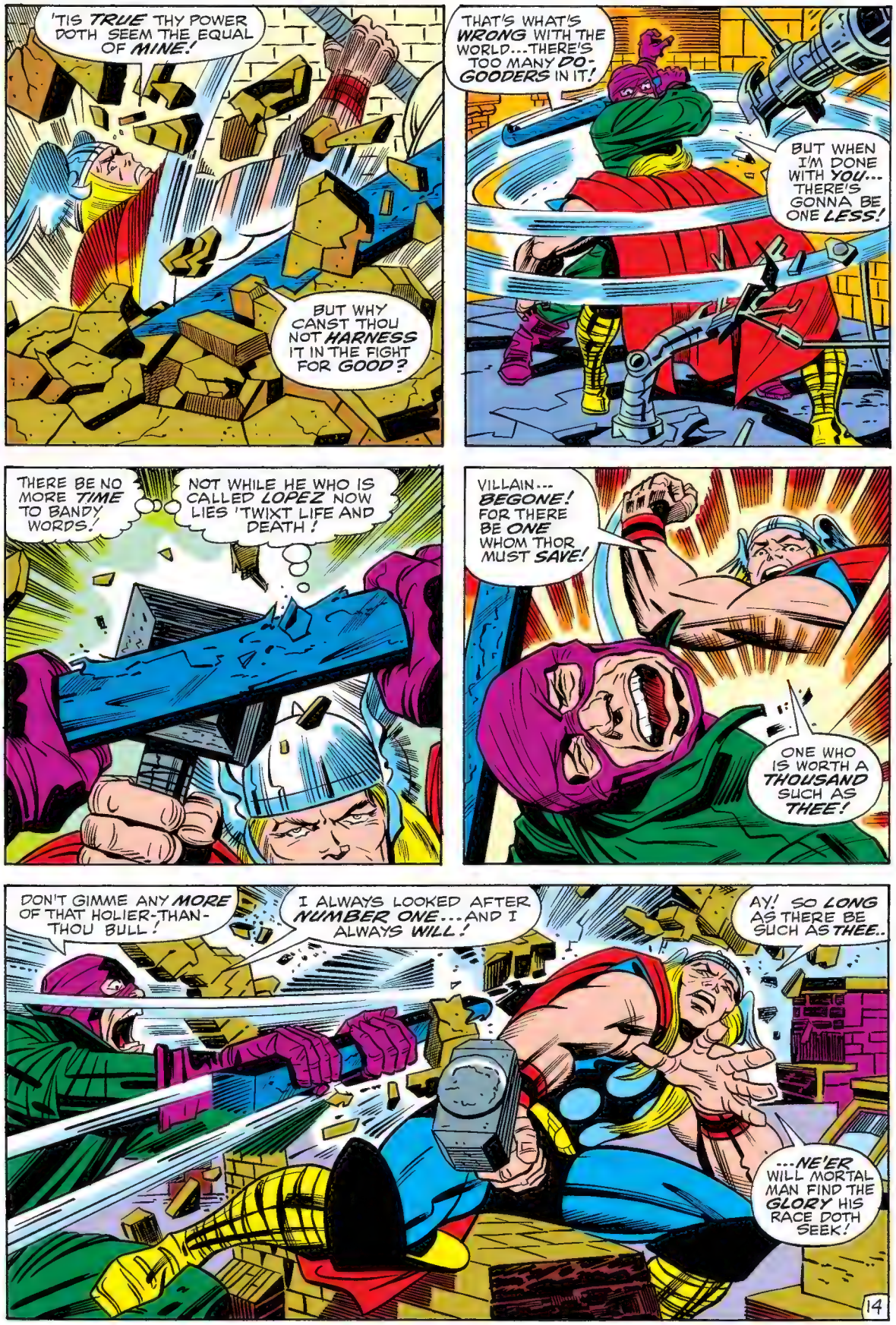
HAH! I KNEW THE ROOFTOPS WOULD BE THE PLACE TO FIND HIM.' ALL I HADDA DO WAS SHAKE THINGS A LITTLE---AND THEN WAIT!
MAYHAP MY FIRST SURMISE WAS WRONG! MAYHAP 'TWAS AN EARTHQUAKE--- NOTHING MORE!
IN WHICH CASE I MUST RETURN FORTHWITH---TO HIM WHOSE LIFE I SOUGHT TO SAVE!


FORGET IT, THUNDER GOD! YOUR RETURNIN' DAYS ARE THRU!
A HUMAN VOICE--- BEHIND ME!

I MAY SOUND HUMAN, LONG-HAIR--- BUT THIS TIME YOU'RE UP AGAINST A GUY WHO CAN TAKE YOU!
THAT HATE-FILLED SNARL--- THAT MERCILESS TONE--- I WOULD KNOW IT ANYWHERE!
'TIS THE WRECKER WHO DOTH ATTACK!

GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS, TINHORN!
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE IN THE GRIP OF A POWER THAT CAN CRUSH YOUR OWN?

THOR HATH NO TIME FOR IDLE THREATS!
THERE BE TOO MUCH AT STAKE!
SO, YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT TO THE FINISH, ARE YA?
OKAY, BIG MAN... THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT!
...'SPECIALLY SINCE IT'S GONNA BE YOUR FINISH!
HAH! DIDN'T THINK I COULD MOVE SO FAST, HUH?
I'M STRONGER... AND SMARTER THAN THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT!
AND, THIS TIME I DON'T QUIT TILL YOU'RE JUST A ROTTEN MEMORY!
THOK!
13


'TIS TRUE THY POWER DOTH SEEM THE EQUAL OF MINE!
BUT WHY CANST THOU NOT HARNESS IT IN THE FIGHT FOR GOOD?
THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD...THERE'S TOO MANY DO-GOODERS IN IT!
BUT WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU... THERE'S GONNA BE ONE LESS!
THERE BE NO MORE TIME TO BANDY WORDS!
NOT WHILE HE WHO IS CALLED LOPEZ NOW LIES 'TWIXT LIFE AND DEATH!
VILLAIN... BEGONE! FOR THERE BE ONE WHOM THOR MUST SAVE!
ONE WHO IS WORTH A THOUSAND SUCH AS THEE!
DON'T GIMME ANY MORE OF THAT HOLIER-THAN-THOU BULL!
I ALWAYS LOOKED AFTER NUMBER ONE...AND I ALWAYS WILL!
AY! SO LONG AS THERE BE SUCH AS THEE..
...NE'ER WILL MORTAL MAN FIND THE GLORY HIS RACE DOTH SEEK!

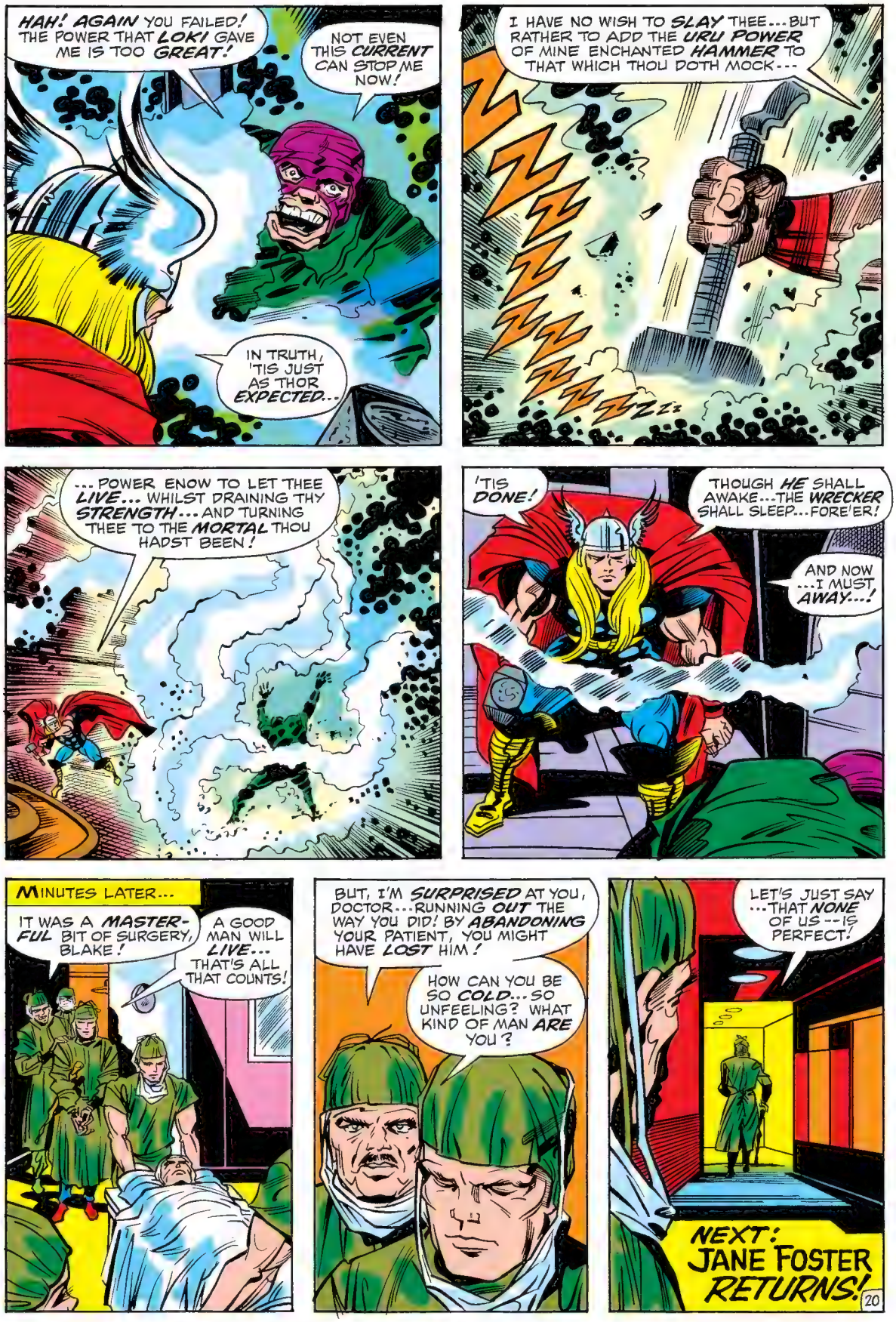
GLORY? THE ONLY GLORY IS IN MAKIN' OUT... IN WINNING OVER ALL THE OTHER SLOBS...
THE WORLD'S LIKE A GREAT BIG GRAB-BASKET... AND IT'S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF... TO GRAB WHAT HE CAN!
THAT'S WHAT POWER'S FOR... SO YOU CAN USE IT TO BEAT YOUR WAY TO THE TOP... NO MATTER WHO YOU STEP ON GOIN' UP!
THOUGH THOU ART CALLED WRECKER... I HAVE KNOWN SUCH EVIL IN MANY GUISES... YEA, UNDER MANY NAMES!
AND EVER MUST THOU BE DESTROYED... FOR THOU ART LIKE UNTO A LIVING PLAGUE!

SKIP THE SERMONS, MISTER! THIS IS WHERE I WRAP YA UP!
THEN, WITH YOU OUTTA THE WAY... THE CITY'LL BE EASY PICKINGS FOR ME AND MY POWERHOUSE CROWBAR!
DRAGGIN' ME OVER THE ROOF WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD...
LONG AS I GOT MY CROWBAR, I CAN TAKE THESE KNOCKS AS GOOD AS YOU!
--AND NOTHING'S GONNA GET IT FROM ME!
SMASH
THY WORDS HAVE SERVED BUT A SINGLE PURPOSE...THEY HAVE SHOWN THEE TO BE BEYOND REASON... BEYOND COMPASSION!
16

THOUGH THE REST OF THY RACE BE NOT FAULTLESS... STILL THEY DO TRY!
AND SO LONG AS THEY DARE STRIVE FOR JUSTICE... FOR TRUTH... THEN NE'ER SHALL THEY BE FORSAKEN!
TRUTH! JUSTICE! THAT'S JUST A LOTTA HOT AIR, MAN!
J. A. ROMAN CO.
THE ONLY TRUTH IS POWER! THE ONLY JUSTICE IS WHAT THE STRONGEST ONE DECIDES!
THAT'S WHY I GOTTA WIN... 'CAUSE I'M THE WRECKER!
THOR SAYS THEE NAY!
THOU SHALT WRECK NO MORE!
YOU... POUNDED A HOLE ...CLEAN THRU THE SIDE-WALK!
HUH! A FAT LOTTA GOOD THIS'LL DO YA!
MY ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO CONCLUDE OUR BATTLE WHERE THOSE ABOVE WOULD SUFFER NO INJURY!
BIG DEAL! I CAN ALWAYS SMASH AT THEM!

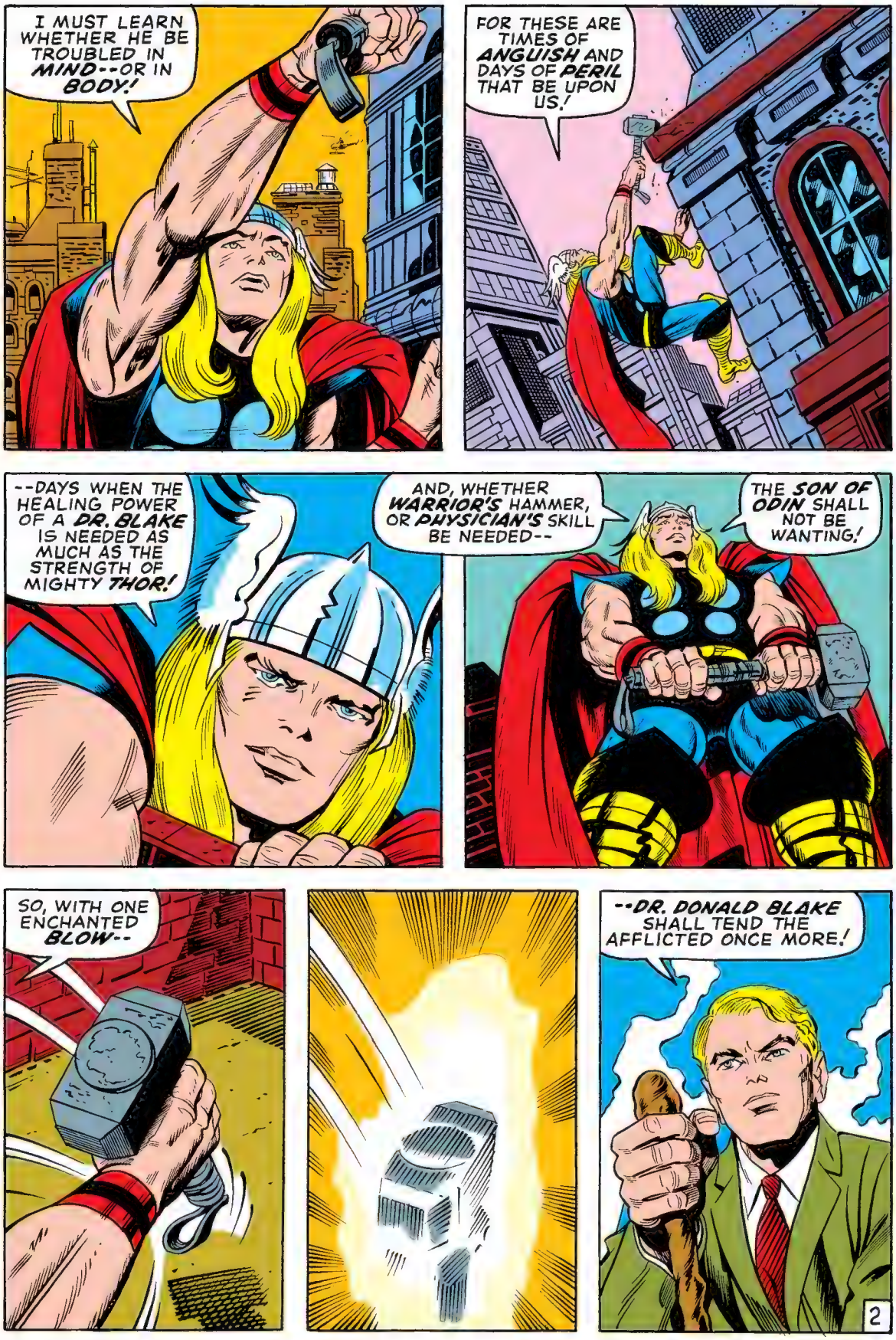
BUT NOW IT'S YOU I WANT--- IT'S YOU I GOTTA GET RID OF--- FOREVER!
TOO CHICKEN TO USE YOUR HAMMER AGAINST ME, HUH?
WELL, IT'S LUCKY I AIN'T AS SQUEAMISH ABOUT THAT STUFF AS YOU!
HE STRIKES OUT BLINDLY ...IN A SENSELESS RAGE!
BUT I AM SWORN TO TAKE NO LIFE --- NOT EVEN SUCH AS HIS!
I MUST FIND ANOTHER WAY---AND BY THE GOLDEN GATES--- I SHALL!
THE SPEEDING TRAIN! OF COURSE! IT HATH FURNISHED ME THE ANSWER!
18

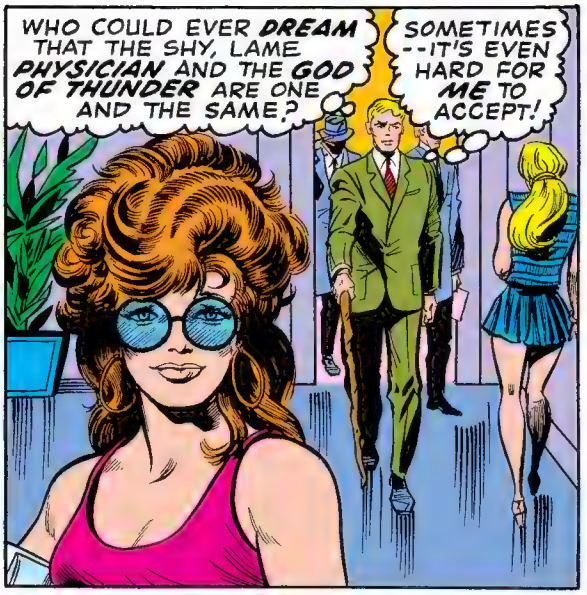
MY TIME GROWS SHORT... MY PATIENT DOTH AWAIT ME!
EVIL ONE...THOU HAST DONE THY WORST...AND FAILED!
NOW 'TIS TIME FOR THOR TO CALL THE TURN...!
STRONG AS THOU ART, 'TIS I WHO AM THE POWER...
...'TIS I WHO WHO AM THE GOD OF THUNDER!
'TIS I WHO MUST PREVAIL!
IT AIN'T POSSIBLE! YOU CAN'T HOLD MY CROWBAR BACK... WITH JUST ONE HAND!!
WHEN THE CAUSE BE JUST...ALL THINGS BE POSSIBLE!
THOU COULDST HAVE JOINED ME...TO RESHAPE A WORLD!
THE THIRD RAIL! YOU'RE TOSSING ME ONTO IT!
BUT THY GOAL WAS TO DESTROY...AND CONQUER FOR THYSELF!

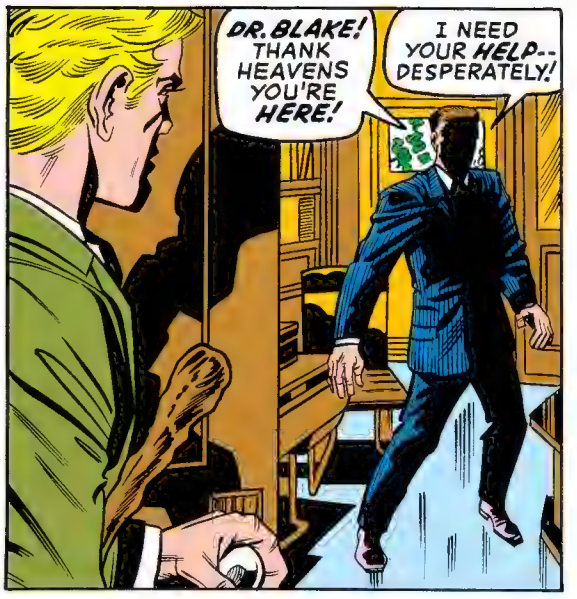

HAH! AGAIN YOU FAILED! THE POWER THAT LOKI GAVE ME IS TOO GREAT!
NOT EVEN THIS CURRENT CAN STOP ME NOW!
IN TRUTH, 'TIS JUST AS THOR EXPECTED...
I HAVE NO WISH TO SLAY THEE... BUT RATHER TO ADD THE URU POWER OF MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER TO THAT WHICH THOU DOTH MOCK...
...POWER ENOW TO LET THEE LIVE... WHILST DRAINING THY STRENGTH... AND TURNING THEE TO THE MORTAL THOU HADST BEEN!
'TIS DONE!
THOUGH HE SHALL AWAKE...THE WRECKER SHALL SLEEP...FORE'ER!
AND NOW ...I MUST AWAY...!
MINUTES LATER...
IT WAS A MASTERFUL BIT OF SURGERY, BLAKE!
A GOOD MAN WILL LIVE... THAT'S ALL THAT COUNTS!
BUT, I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, DOCTOR...RUNNING OUT THE WAY YOU DID! BY ABANDONING YOUR PATIENT, YOU MIGHT HAVE LOST HIM!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD...SO UNFEELING? WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU?
LET'S JUST SAY ...THAT NONE OF US --IS PERFECT!
NEXT: JANE FOSTER RETURNS!

THOR
15¢
172
JAN
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE MENACE OF THE MIND SLAVE!
SURPRISE! JANE FOSTER IN THIS ISSUE!

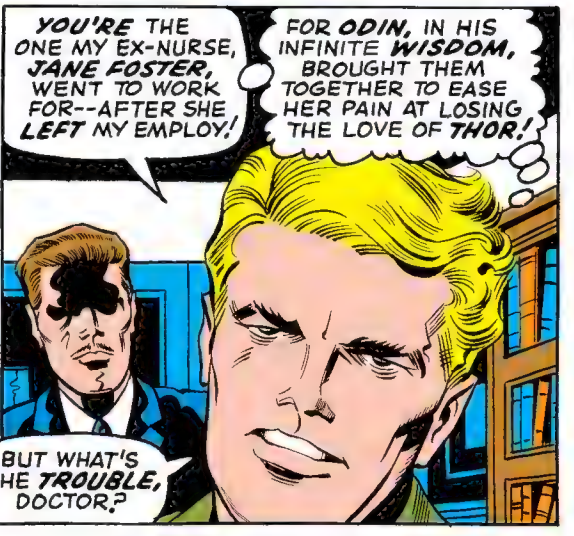
THE MIGHTY THOR!™
THE IMMORTAL AND THE MIND-SLAVE!
Featuring THE RETURN OF JANE FOSTER!
SOMEONE DOTH WAIT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF DR. BLAKE-- AND THE GOD OF THUNDER DOTH SENSE THAT HE BE SORELY TROUBLED!
WRITTEN & DRAWN BY: STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
BILL EVERETT EMBELLISHER
ART SIMEK LETTERER


I MUST LEARN WHETHER HE BE TROUBLED IN MIND--OR IN BODY!
FOR THESE ARE TIMES OF ANGUISH AND DAYS OF PERIL THAT BE UPON US!
--DAYS WHEN THE HEALING POWER OF A DR. BLAKE IS NEEDED AS MUCH AS THE STRENGTH OF MIGHTY THOR!
AND, WHETHER WARRIOR'S HAMMER, OR PHYSICIAN'S SKILL BE NEEDED--
THE SON OF ODIN SHALL NOT BE WANTING!
SO, WITH ONE ENCHANTED BLOW--
--DR. DONALD BLAKE SHALL TEND THE AFFLICTED ONCE MORE!
2

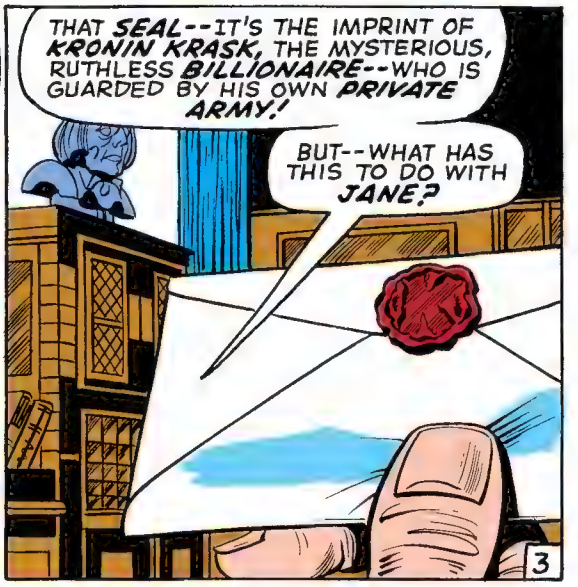

WHO COULD EVER DREAM THAT THE SHY, LAME PHYSICIAN AND THE GOD OF THUNDER ARE ONE AND THE SAME?
SOMETIMES --IT'S EVEN HARD FOR ME TO ACCEPT!

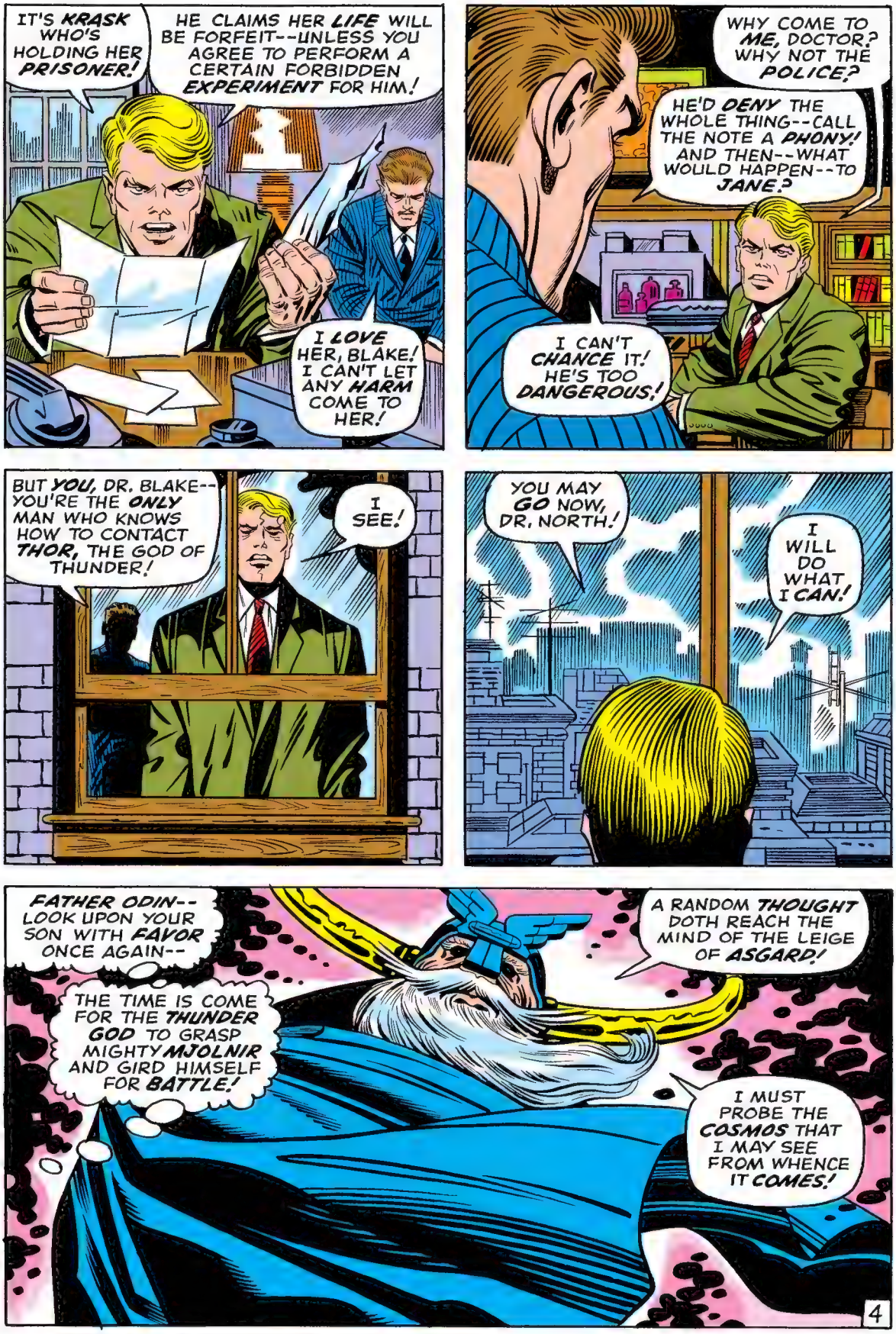

DR. BLAKE! THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE HERE!
I NEED YOUR HELP-- DESPERATELY!

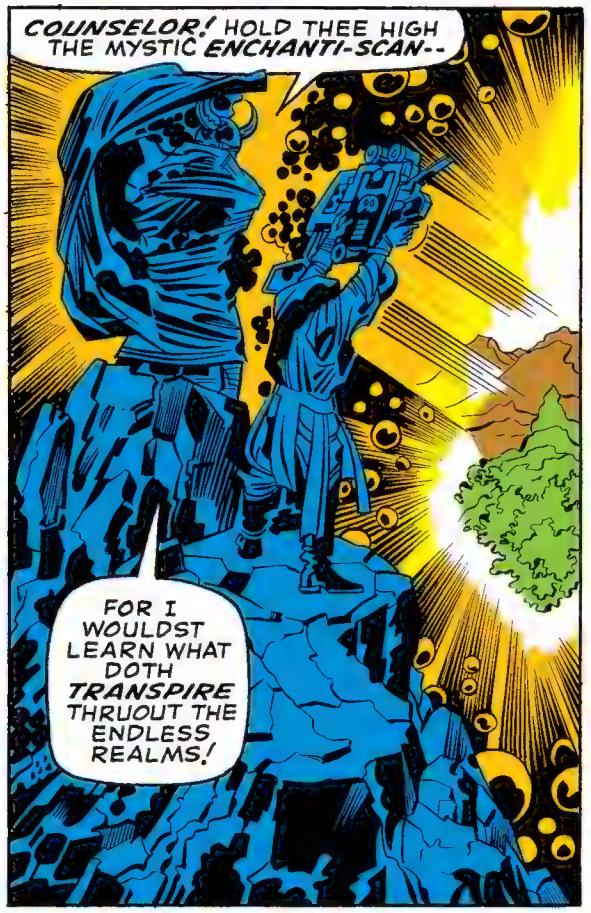
I'M DR. JIM NORTH-- I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER ME?
YES, DOCTOR-- I REMEMBER YOU!

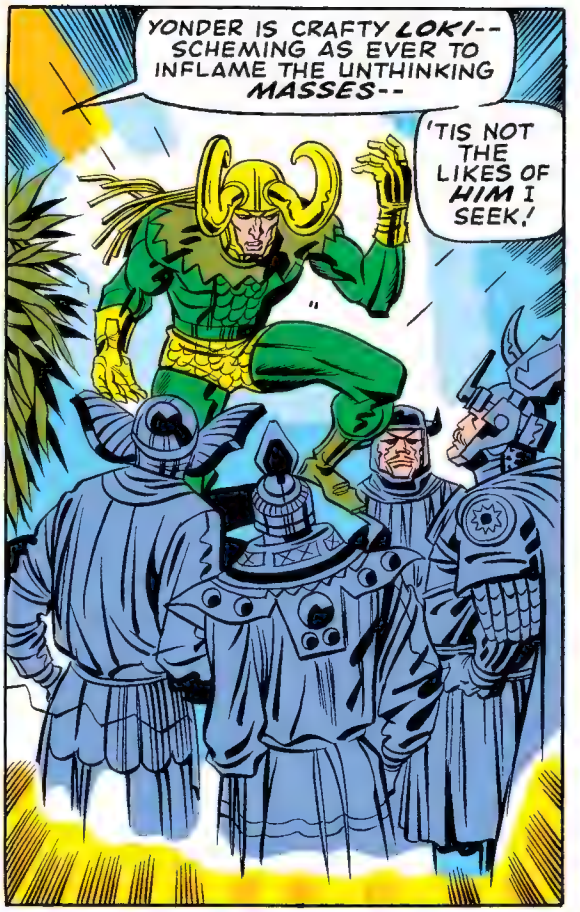

YOU'RE THE ONE MY EX-NURSE, JANE FOSTER, WENT TO WORK FOR--AFTER SHE LEFT MY EMPLOY!
FOR ODIN, IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM, BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER TO EASE HER PAIN AT LOSING THE LOVE OF THOR!
BUT WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, DOCTOR?

IT'S JANE--SHE'S BEING HELD PRISONER--WITH HER LIFE IN DANGER!
JANE! A PRISONER! WHERE-- HOW?
READ THIS LETTER I RECEIVED-- IT WILL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING!

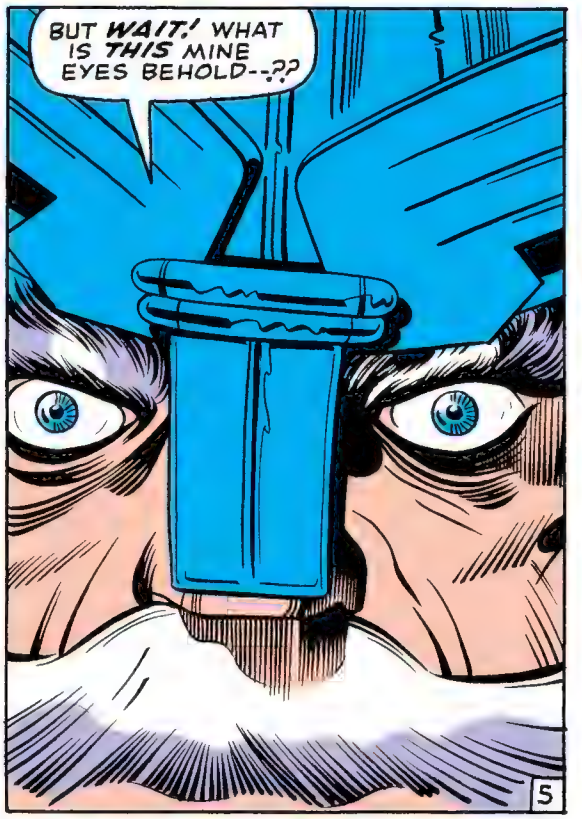

THAT SEAL--IT'S THE IMPRINT OF KRONIN KRASK, THE MYSTERIOUS, RUTHLESS BILLIONAIRE--WHO IS GUARDED BY HIS OWN PRIVATE ARMY!
BUT--WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH JANE?

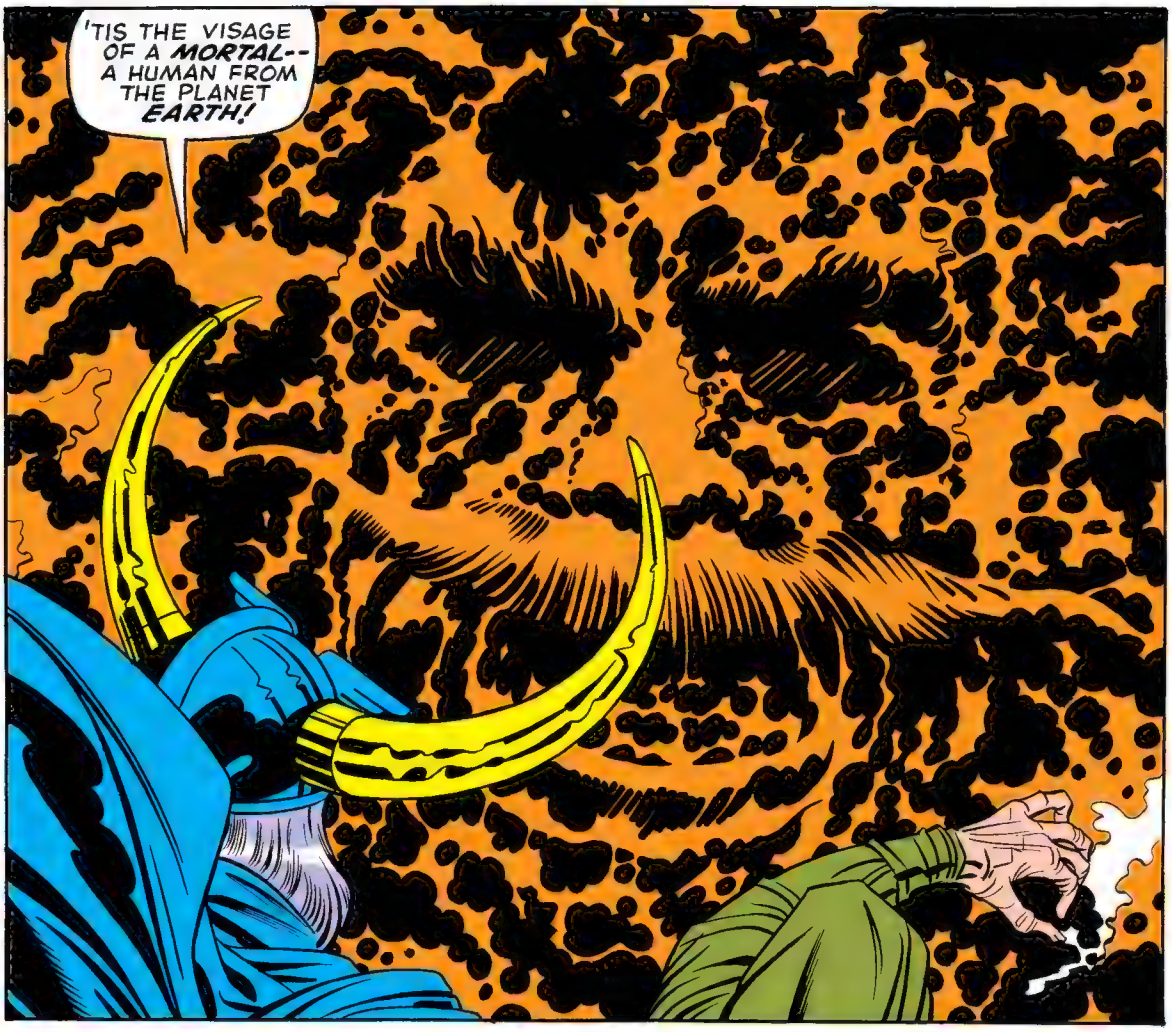

IT'S KRASK WHO'S HOLDING HER PRISONER!
HE CLAIMS HER LIFE WILL BE FORFEIT--UNLESS YOU AGREE TO PERFORM A CERTAIN FORBIDDEN EXPERIMENT FOR HIM!
I LOVE HER, BLAKE! I CAN'T LET ANY HARM COME TO HER!
WHY COME TO ME, DOCTOR? WHY NOT THE POLICE?
HE'D DENY THE WHOLE THING--CALL THE NOTE A PHONY! AND THEN--WHAT WOULD HAPPEN--TO JANE?
I CAN'T CHANCE IT! HE'S TOO DANGEROUS!
BUT YOU, DR. BLAKE--YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO CONTACT THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER!
I SEE!
YOU MAY GO NOW, DR. NORTH!
I WILL DO WHAT I CAN!
FATHER ODIN--LOOK UPON YOUR SON WITH FAVOR ONCE AGAIN--
THE TIME IS COME FOR THE THUNDER GOD TO GRASP MIGHTY MJOLNIR AND GIRD HIMSELF FOR BATTLE!
A RANDOM THOUGHT DOTH REACH THE MIND OF THE LEIGE OF ASGARD!
I MUST PROBE THE COSMOS THAT I MAY SEE FROM WHENCE IT COMES!


COUNSELOR! HOLD THEE HIGH THE MYSTIC ENCHANTI-SCAN--
FOR I WOULDST LEARN WHAT DOTH TRANSPIRE THRUOUT THE ENDLESS REALMS!

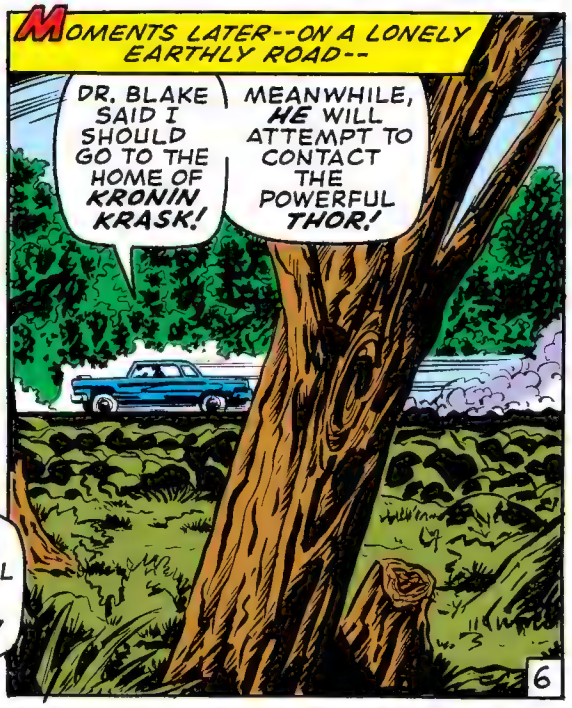

YONDER IS CRAFTY LOKI-- SCHEMING AS EVER TO INFLAME THE UNTHINKING MASSES--
'TIS NOT THE LIKES OF HIM I SEEK!

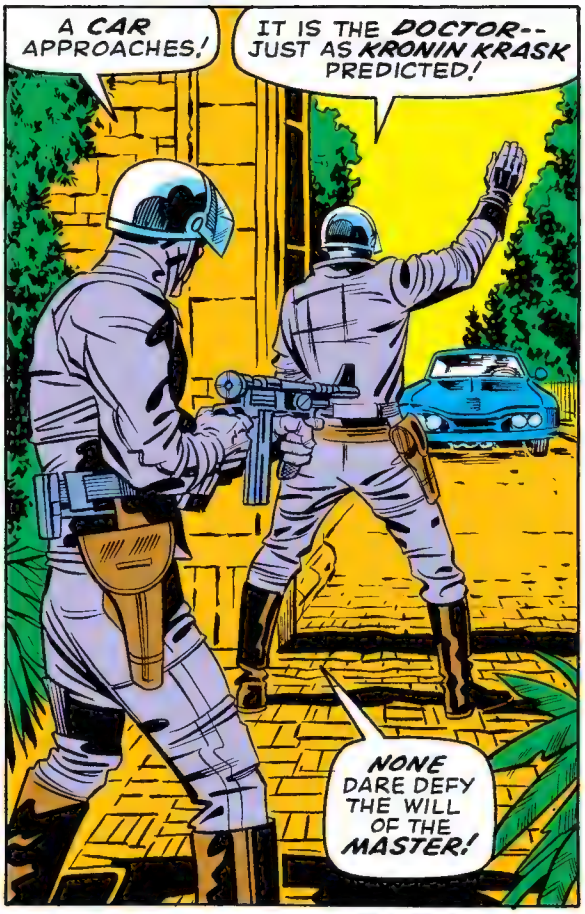
--WHILST THE LOYAL BALDER DOTH RECOVER FROM HIS BATTLE WOUNDS IN THE DARK DOMAIN OF QUEEN KARNILLA!
BUT STILL ELSE-WHERE MUST I PEER!


BUT WAIT! WHAT IS THIS MINE EYES BEHOLD--??
5

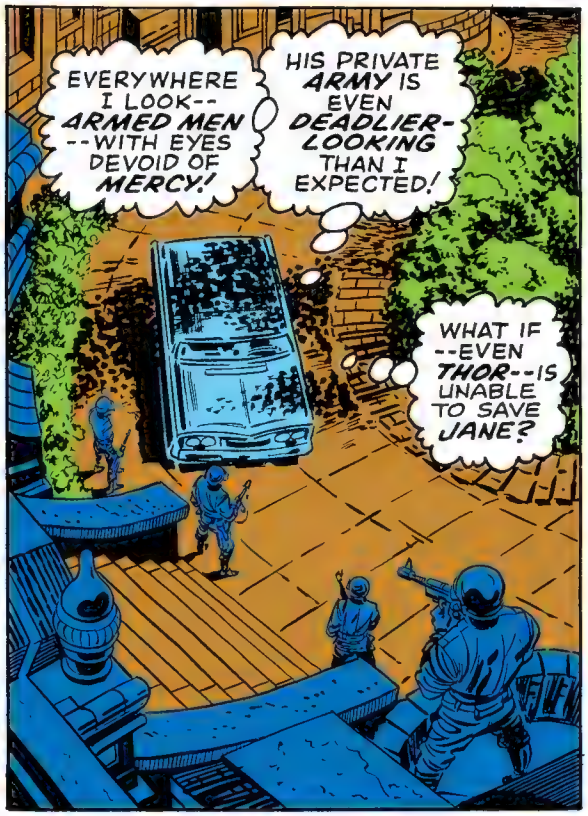

'TIS THE VISAGE OF A MORTAL--A HUMAN FROM THE PLANET EARTH!

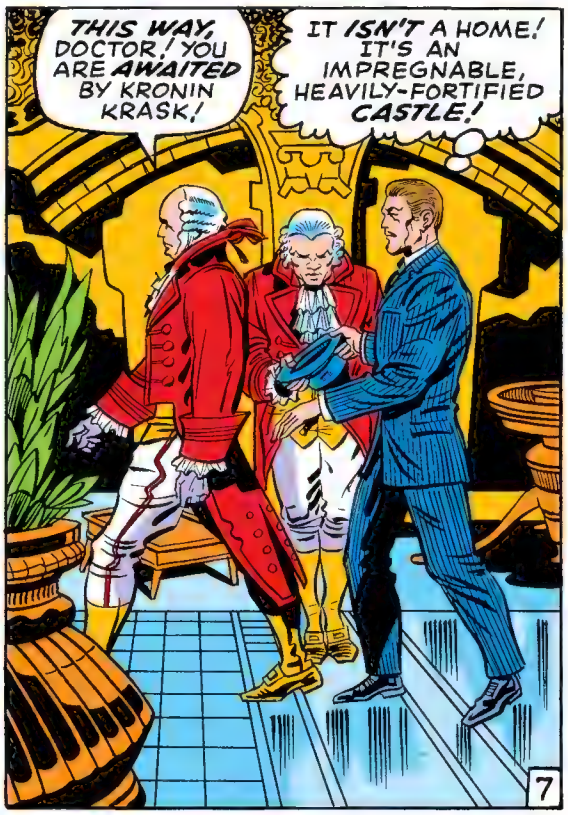
'TIS HE WHO SOON SHALL MENACE THE GOD OF THUNDER!
BUT, THE SON OF ODIN SHALL PROVE EQUAL TO THE TASK!
BUT--IF HE SHOULD NOT, MY LORD?
THEN, A FATHER'S TEARS SHALL FLOOD THE WHOLE OF ASGARD!

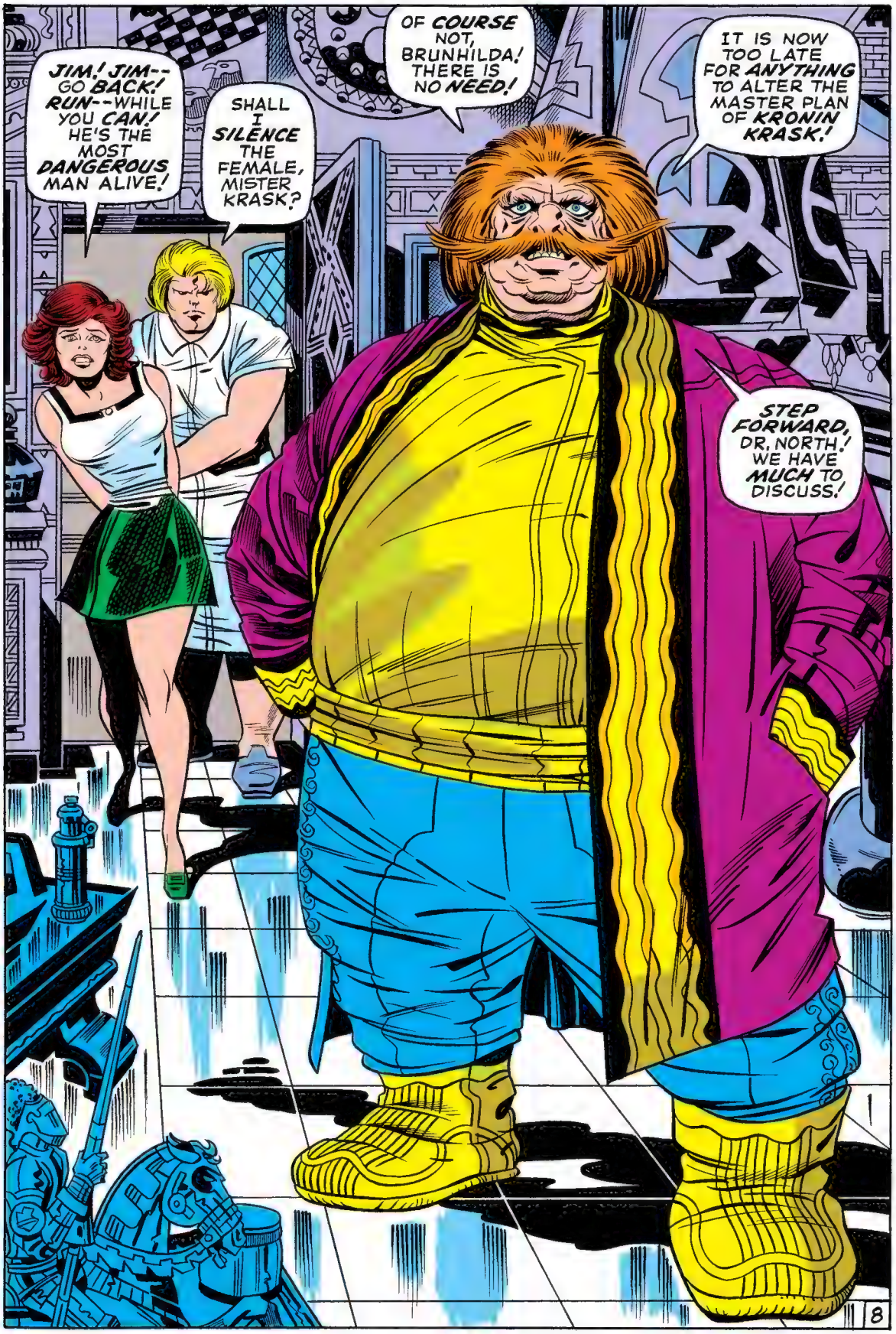

MOMENTS LATER--ON A LONELY EARTHLY ROAD--
DR. BLAKE SAID I SHOULD GO TO THE HOME OF KRONIN KRASK!
MEANWHILE, HE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE POWERFUL THOR!


A CAR APPROACHES!
IT IS THE DOCTOR--JUST AS KRONIN KRASK PREDICTED!
NONE DARE DEFY THE WILL OF THE MASTER!

YOU MAY ENTER DR. NORTH--BUT FOLLOW EVERY ORDER--OBEY EVERY COMMAND THAT IS GIVEN!
FOR THOSE WHO TRY TO RESIST THE WILL OF KRONIN KRASK --THE ONLY END IS DEATH!

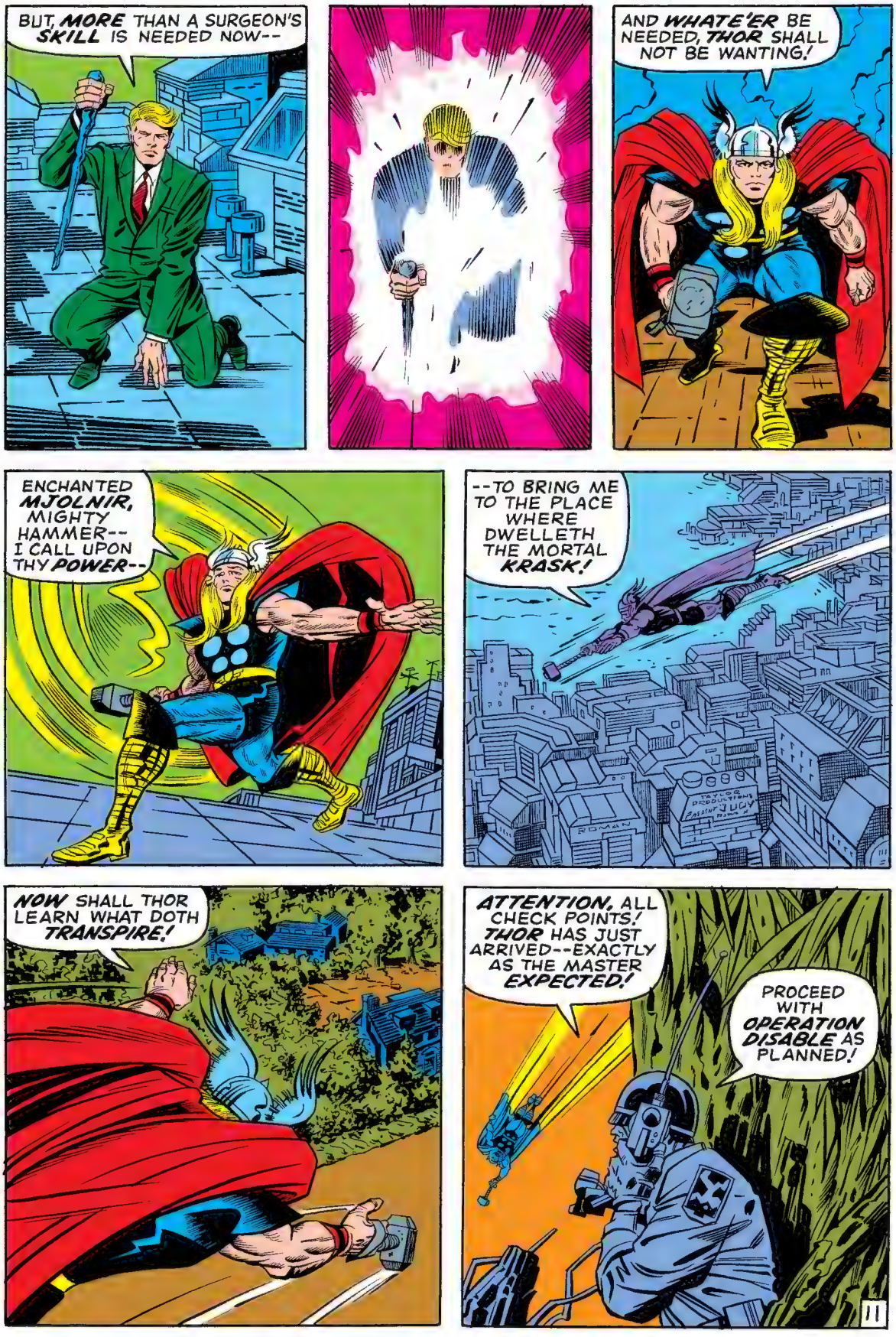

EVERYWHERE I LOOK--ARMED MEN --WITH EYES DEVOID OF MERCY!
HIS PRIVATE ARMY IS EVEN DEADLIER-LOOKING THAN I EXPECTED!
WHAT IF --EVEN THOR--IS UNABLE TO SAVE JANE?

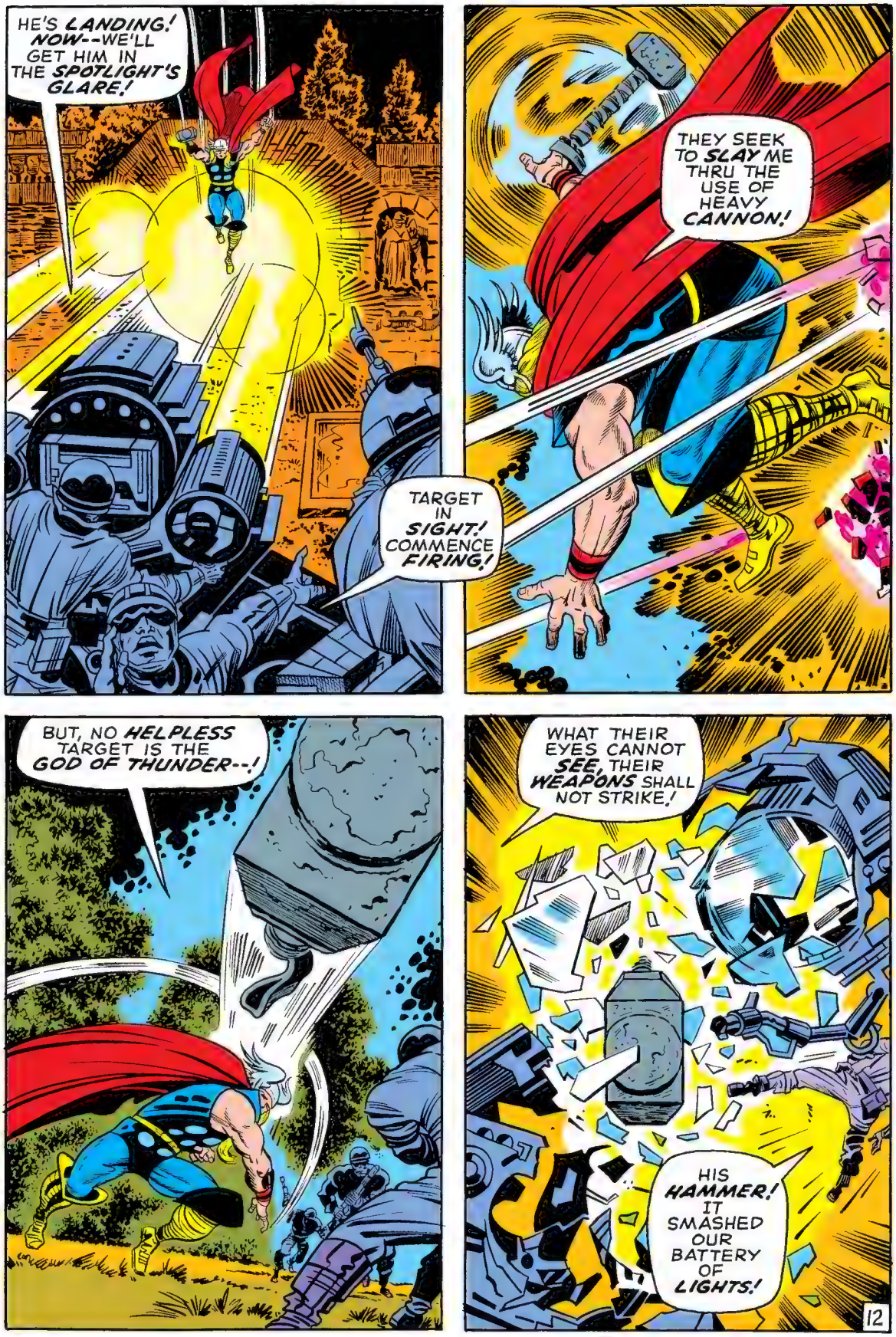

THIS WAY, DOCTOR! YOU ARE AWAITED BY KRONIN KRASK!
IT ISN'T A HOME! IT'S AN IMPREGNABLE, HEAVILY-FORTIFIED CASTLE!


JIM! JIM--GO BACK! RUN--WHILE YOU CAN! HE'S THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE!
SHALL I SILENCE THE FEMALE, MISTER KRASK?
OF COURSE NOT, BRUNHILDA! THERE IS NO NEED!
IT IS NOW TOO LATE FOR ANYTHING TO ALTER THE MASTER PLAN OF KRONIN KRASK!
STEP FORWARD, DR. NORTH! WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS!
8

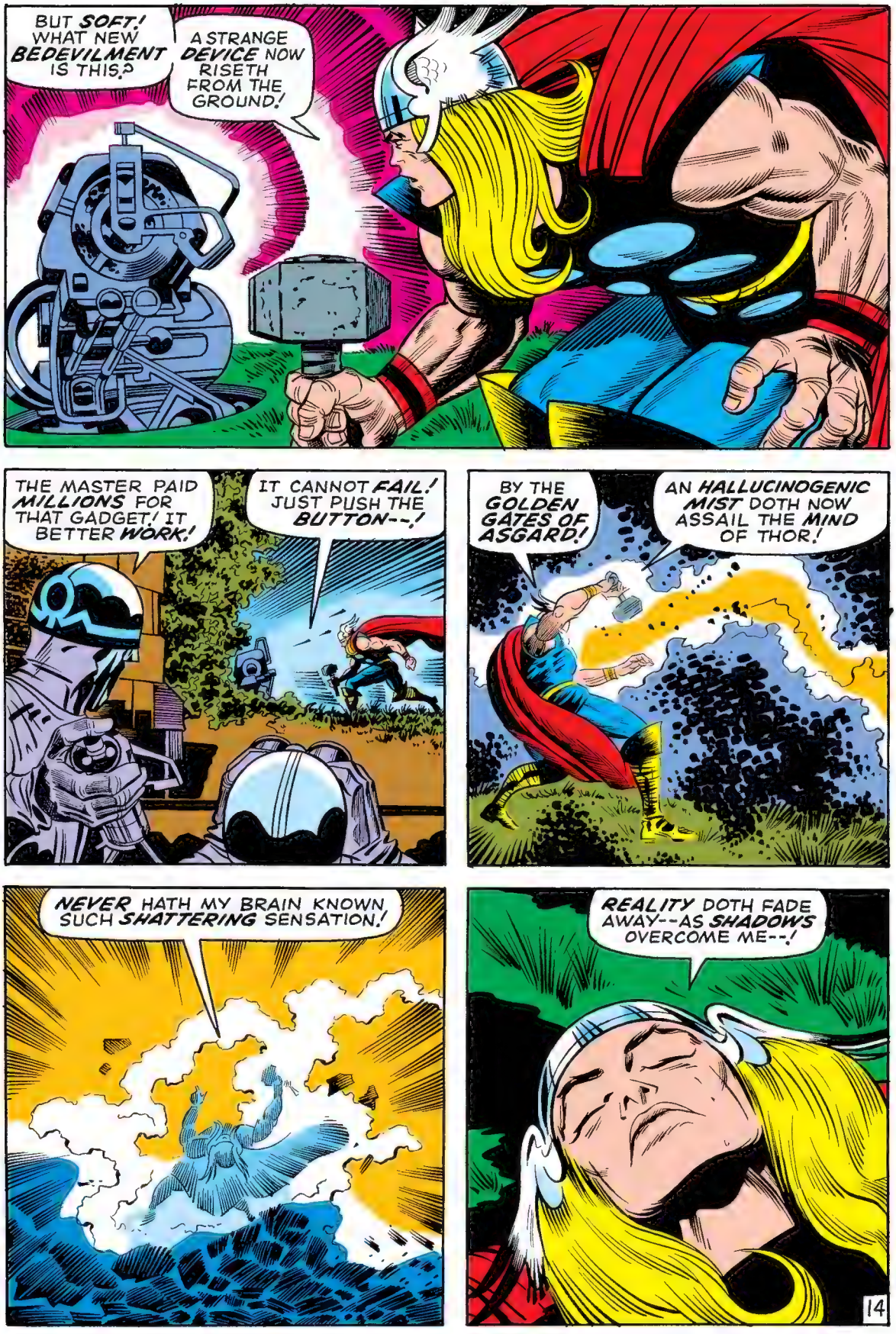
WITH YOUR HELP, DOCTOR--I AM ABOUT TO BECOME--IMMORTAL!
AND, YOU WILL HELP ME, OF COURSE--BECAUSE OF HER!
STAND AWAY FROM HER, KRASK!
WE'RE LEAVING HERE--NOW--AND YOU'RE COMING WITH US--AS OUR HOSTAGE!
DROP THAT TOY, DOCTOR! DID YOU THINK I BECAME ONE OF THE WORLD'S WEALTHIEST MEN BY BEING CARELESS?
ANOTHER FOOLHARDY MOVE LIKE THAT, AND MISS FOSTER WILL PAY FOR IT--WITH HER LIFE!
NO! NO!
AND NOW--TO BUSINESS!
YOU ARE ABOUT TO PERFORM THE FIRST MIND-TRANSPLANT IN HISTORY!
IMPOSSIBLE! NOBODY CAN DO THAT--EXCEPT DR. WAGNASTEIN!
HE CAPTURED DR. WAGNASTEIN--HE FORCED HIM TO REVEAL THE SECRETS OF HIS EXPERIMENT!
KRONIN KRASK GETS EVERYTHING HE GOES AFTER!
AND NOW, DR. NORTH--ARE YOU READY TO BEGIN?
OR, SHALL YOUR MISS FOSTER PAY THE PRICE?
9

MURDERER!! IF ANY HARM COMES TO THAT GIRL, I'LL-- I'LL--!!
YOU ARE HELPLESS, DOCTOR-- AND YOU KNOW IT!
YOU ASSISTED WAGNASTEIN IN THE PAST--
AND TONIGHT-- YOU WILL FINALLY COMPLETE WHAT HE BEGAN!
I HAVE EVERYTHING A MAN COULD WANT-- WEALTH BEYOND MEASURE--AND LIMITLESS POWER!
BUT EVEN THE RICHEST--EVEN THE MIGHTIEST OF MEN--MUST DIE!
BUT NOT KRONIN KRASK! I-REFUSE-TO-DIE!
THEREFORE, DR. NORTH-- YOU WILL PERFORM THE EXPERIMENT THAT WILL GRANT ME-- IMMORTALITY!
I MUST DO AS HE SAYS, JANE!
I DON'T DARE RISK ANY HARM BEFALLING THE GIRL I LOVE!
BUT--EVEN IF YOU SUCCEED-- HE'LL NEVER LET US LEAVE HERE--ALIVE!
IT'S A CHANCE-- WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE!
BACK IN THE HEART OF THE CITY--
IF JANE FOSTER IS IN DANGER-- I MUST GO TO HER!
I CANNOT FAIL THE GIRL WHOM I ONCE LOVED!
10


BUT, MORE THAN A SURGEON'S SKILL IS NEEDED NOW--
AND WHATE'ER BE NEEDED, THOR SHALL NOT BE WANTING!
ENCHANTED MJOLNIR, MIGHTY HAMMER-- I CALL UPON THY POWER--
--TO BRING ME TO THE PLACE WHERE DWELLETH THE MORTAL KRASK!
NOW SHALL THOR LEARN WHAT DOTH TRANSPIRE!
ATTENTION, ALL CHECK POINTS! THOR HAS JUST ARRIVED--EXACTLY AS THE MASTER EXPECTED!
PROCEED WITH OPERATION DISABLE AS PLANNED!
11


HE'S LANDING! NOW--WE'LL GET HIM IN THE SPOTLIGHT'S GLARE!
TARGET IN SIGHT! COMMENCE FIRING!
THEY SEEK TO SLAY ME THRU THE USE OF HEAVY CANNON!
BUT, NO HELPLESS TARGET IS THE GOD OF THUNDER--!
WHAT THEIR EYES CANNOT SEE, THEIR WEAPONS SHALL NOT STRIKE!
HIS HAMMER! IT SMASHED OUR BATTERY OF LIGHTS!
12

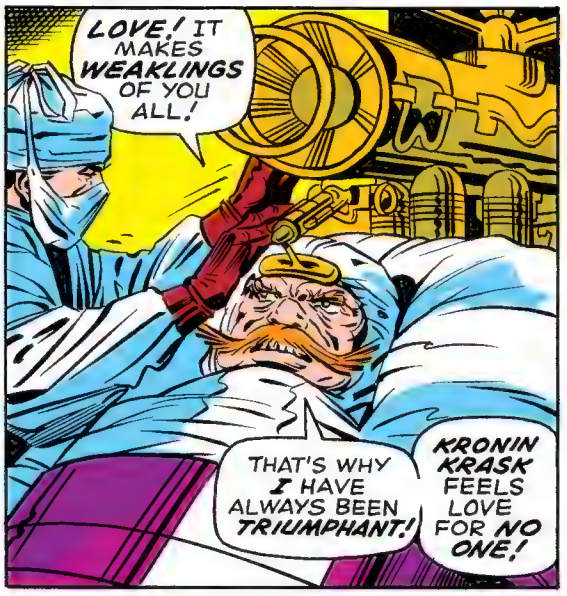
LOOK OUT! IT'S RICOCHETING BACK AGAIN!!
THOPP!
MJOLNIR-- TO THY MASTER!
RUN, THOU, MOST IGNOBLE MERCENARIES!
THE SON OF ODIN ORDERS THEE-- BEGONE!
AND WHILST THOU FLEE--ONE BLOW SHALL HASTEN THEE UPON THY WAY!


BUT SOFT! WHAT NEW BEDEVILMENT IS THIS?
A STRANGE DEVICE NOW RISETH FROM THE GROUND!
THE MASTER PAID MILLIONS FOR THAT GADGET! IT BETTER WORK!
IT CANNOT FAIL! JUST PUSH THE BUTTON--!
BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD!
AN HALLUCINOGENIC MIST DOTH NOW ASSAIL THE MIND OF THOR!
NEVER HATH MY BRAIN KNOWN SUCH SHATTERING SENSATION!
REALITY DOTH FADE AWAY--AS SHADOWS OVERCOME ME--!

MINUTES LATER--
ALL IS READY! THE MASTER AWAITS YOU!
JOHN--YOU CAN'T! YOU MUSTN'T! IF KRASK'S BRAIN TAKES THE BODY OF A YOUNGER MAN, THEN THAT MAN WILL END UP IN KRASK'S BODY--A BODY WHICH HAS ONLY A SHORT TIME TO LIVE!
KRASK IS PROBABLY PAYING THE MAN A FORTUNE TO ALLOW THE TRANSFER!
ANYWAY, WITH YOU AS HOSTAGE--WHAT CHOICE HAVE I?
YOU REALIZE THE DANGER, KRASK? THIS HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE!
YOU WILL SUCCEED! FOR YOU KNOW--IF I DIE, THE GIRL DIES!
BUT, IF I SURVIVE--I WILL LIVE LIKE A GOD! I WILL LIVE FOREVER!
WHO IS THE SUBJECT? WHOSE BODY LIES UNDER THIS SHEET?
15

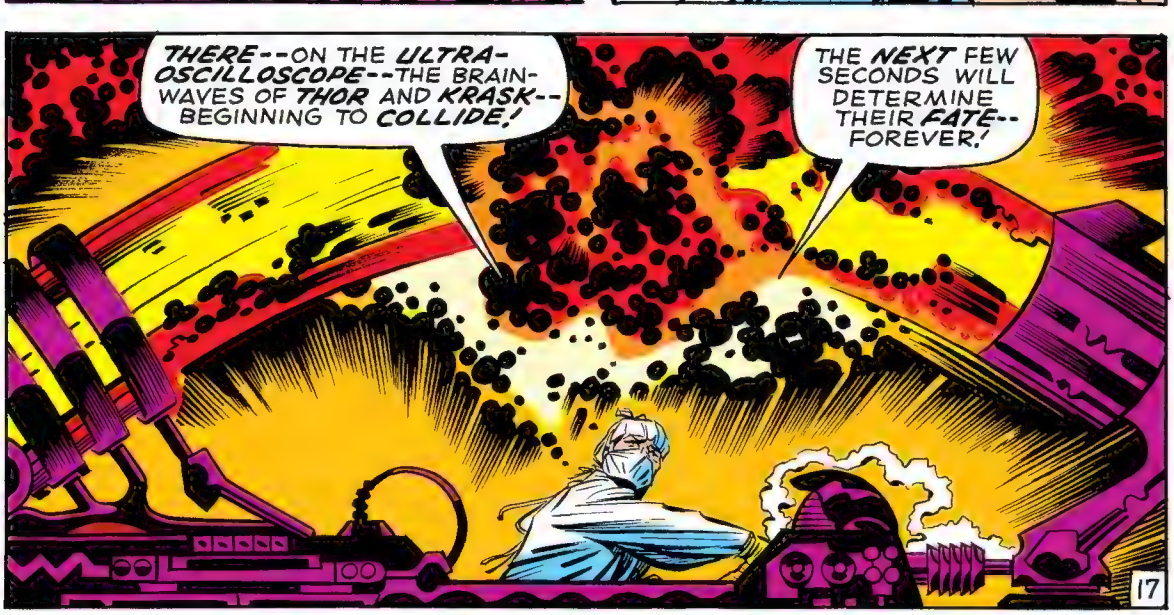
HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED YET?
I KNEW DR. NORTH WOULD REMEMBER THAT YOU HAD ONCE BEEN FRIENDLY WITH THOR!
I GAMBLED ON THE FACT THAT HE'D CONTACT HIM--FOR HELP--AND THAT THOR WOULD COME HERE--WHERE MY MEN COULD CAPTURE HIM!
IT IS HIM! IT'S THE GOD OF THUNDER!
THOR! OH NO--NO!
YOU CAN'T DO IT, JOHN,! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO US--
YOU CAN'T LET KRASK PUT HIS OWN BRAIN IN THE BODY OF THOR!
SHE'S RIGHT! NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO ME--I WON'T GO THRU WITH IT!
SHOOT ME NOW! GO AHEAD--IT'LL BE BETTER THIS WAY!
THE GIRL, DOCTOR! LOOK AT THE GIRL!
IT ISN'T YOU WE'LL KILL--IT'S HER! WE'LL ALLOW YOU TO LIVE!
YOU'LL LIVE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SHE DIED BECAUSE OF YOUR DECISION!
NOW, DOCTOR--DO YOU STILL REFUSE?
I CAN'T! I CAN'T LET JANE DIE--NOT EVEN TO SAVE THE THUNDER GOD!
FORGIVE ME --FOR WHAT I MUST DO!

JOHN--MY DARLING--YOU CAN'T! THINK WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
I--I AM THINKING, JANE! I AM!
IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN--TAKE HER AWAY!

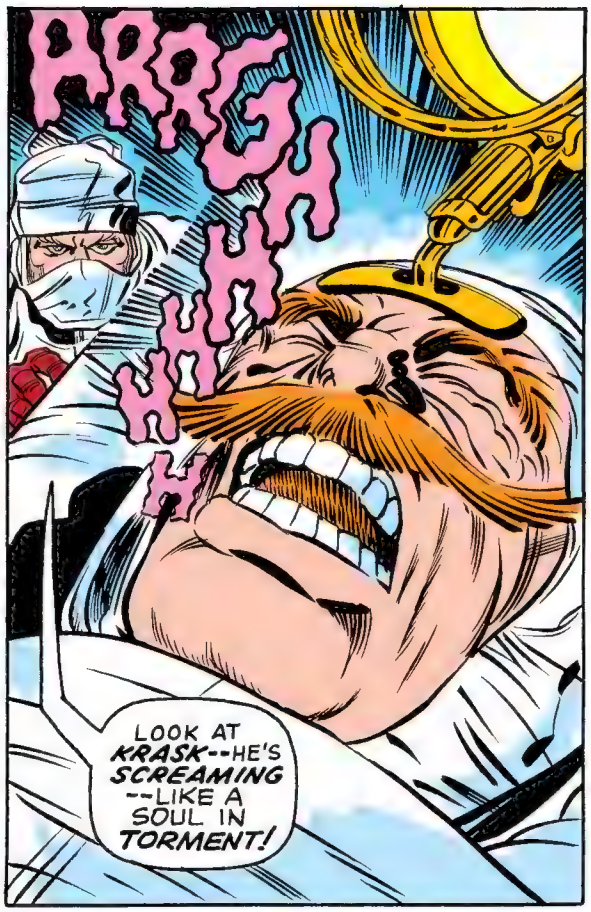

LOVE! IT MAKES WEAKLINGS OF YOU ALL!
THAT'S WHY I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TRIUMPHANT!
KRONIN KRASK FEELS LOVE FOR NO ONE!

KLAK!

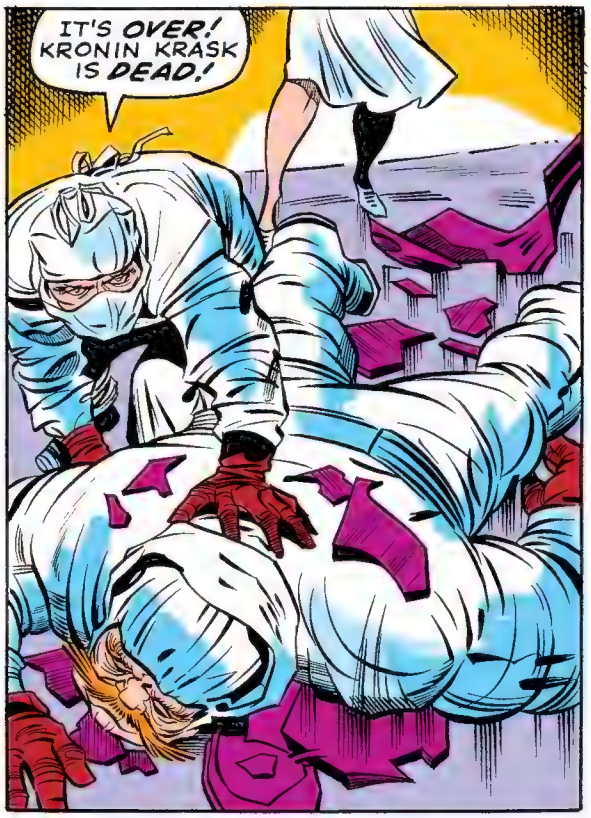
I-I'VE DONE IT! NOW THERE CAN BE--NO TURNING BACK!


THERE--ON THE ULTRA-OSCILLOSCOPE--THE BRAIN-WAVES OF THOR AND KRASK--BEGINNING TO COLLIDE!
THE NEXT FEW SECONDS WILL DETERMINE THEIR FATE--FOREVER!

THE INSTRUMENTS ARE GOING WILD--THE STRAIN ON THEIR BODIES IS UNIMAGINABLE!
LOOK--UP THERE! THE ELECTRO-WAVES ARE--TAKING FORM!
WE'RE WITNESSING SOMETHING NO HUMAN EYES HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE!
THEIR ACTUAL EGOS ARE BATTLING FOR SUPREMACY--
SO POWERFUL IS THE ONSLAUGHT THAT IT'S VISIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYE--
BUT NOW--THE FIGURES ARE BEGINNING TO--MERGE!!
ONE HAS BECOME VICTORIOUS --IT'S ENGULFING THE OTHER!!
BUT WHICH ONE IS IT? WHICH??
18


ARRGHHHHH
LOOK AT KRASK--HE'S SCREAMING --LIKE A SOUL IN TORMENT!

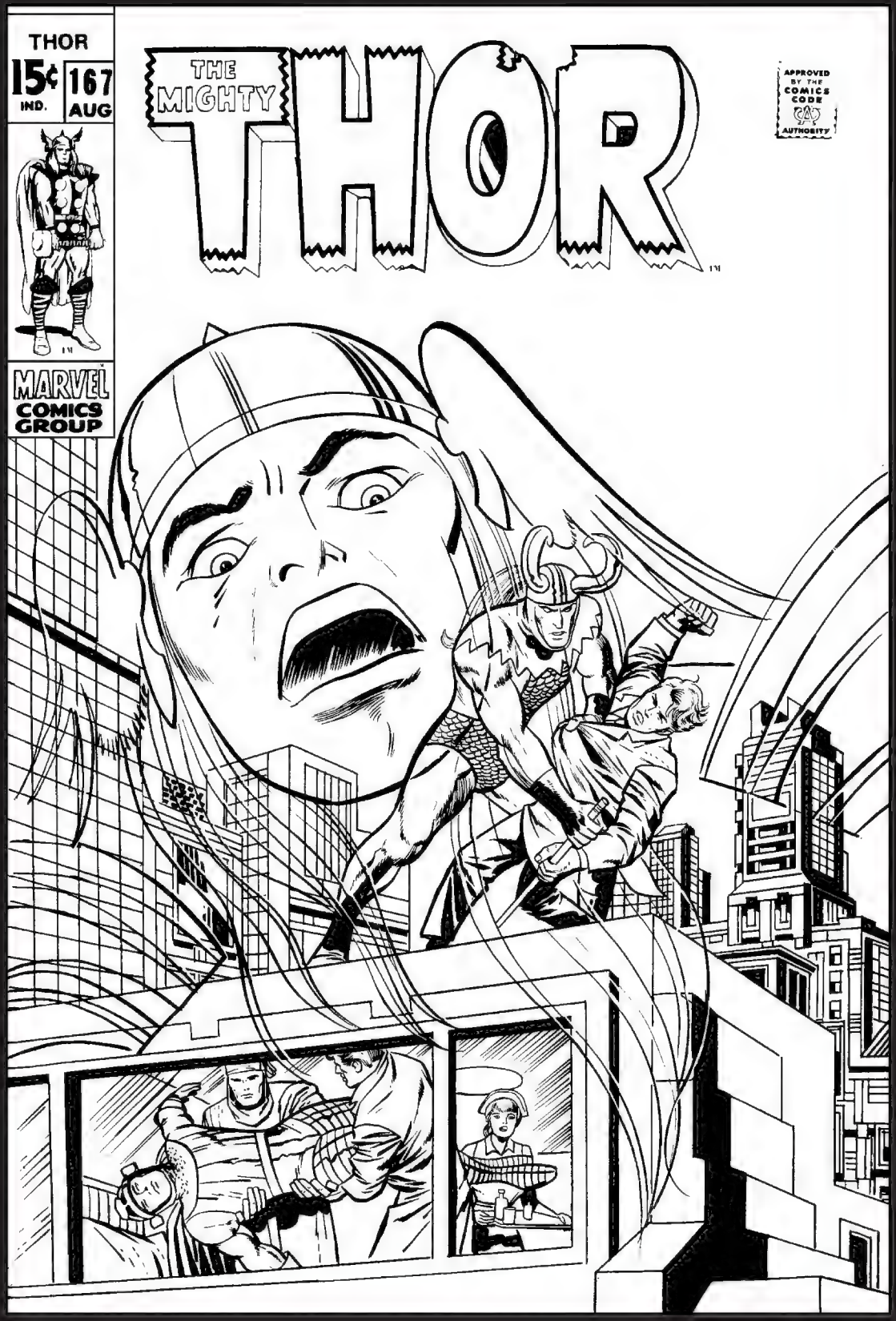
HE'S LURCHING FORWARD-- TEARING HIMSELF LOOSE FROM THE SUPPORTING STRAPS!!
HE'S FALLING-- FALLING!


IT'S OVER! KRONIN KRASK IS DEAD!

--AND THE THUNDER GOD DOTH LIVE!

I'M A DOCTOR! I KNEW YOU WEREN'T REALLY IN A COMA! I COULD TELL YOU WERE FEIGNING UNCONSCIOUSNESS!
IT WAS A CHALLENGE! A CHALLENGE NO WARRIOR COULDST IGNORE!
WHY DID YOU GO THRU WITH IT? WHY DID YOU TAKE THE CHANCE?
VAINGLORIOUS VILLAIN! DID HE THINK TO TRIUMPH OVER AN IMMORTAL
HAD ANYTHING GONE WRONG-- YOU MIGHT HAVE DIED-- BECAUSE OF US!
REPROACH NOT THYSELVES! I SAY THEE-- THOU ART BLAMELESS!
THOU DIDST ACT FOR LOVE--AND VERILY, THERE BE NO HIGHER CAUSE!
KRASK'S MEN HAVE FLED!
AY! WHEN THE LION FALLS--THE JACKALS SOON DEPART!
ONE THING MORE THOU SHALT DO-- DESTROY YON EQUIPMENT!
POWER SUCH AS THAT IS NOT YET MEANT FOR MAN!
AND SO--FAREWELL! THOU HAST EACH OTHER --NO MORE IS NEEDED!
NEXT
THE UNMENTIONABLE ULIK!
20

**SPECIAL BONUS:**
*The Mighty Thor* #167 unused cover art
by Jack Kirby & Vince Colletta



*The Mighty Thor* #170 unused cover art
by Jack Kirby & Bill Everett

*The Mighty Thor* #169, page 13 unused pencils
by Jack Kirby

POW-- THORS PALS VANISH IN BLAST
AND MOMENT LATER THEY ARE IN INVADED CITY
REFU-GEES ARE FLEEING IN PANIC
THE BOYS SEE EX-PLOSION FAN-DRAL SAYS THERE IS WHERE WE GO
13
THEN BALDER SAYS -- LET'S DO IT, ALIEN -- IN THE CAUSE OF MANKIND
UNAWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON, THOR AND GALACTUS CONCENTRATE ON ASGARD--GALACTUS SENSES DANGER FOR ODIN

*The Mighty Thor* #169, page 14 unused pencils
by Jack Kirby

THOR SAYS - - I MUST SEE WHAT THE THREAT IS - -
GALACTUS SAYS - THEN SO BE IT - YOU MAY NOT LIKE IT
LOKI ENTERS FACES ODIN
HE'S ON TRIAL FOR PLOTTING TO HARM BALDER AND THOR
ODIN JUDGE ME FALSELY
I'LL LET ALL OF AS-GARD KNOW IT
JACK KIRBY '69
14
I'LL TURN ALL OF ASGARD AGAINST ODIN - - AND YOU DARE NOT USE YOUR POWER IN A FAIR HEARING
GALACTUS POPS THE VISION - - HE SAYS LOKI IS NOT HARMLESS
THOR SAYS ODIN CAN HANDLE LOKI - - I DON'T FEAR FOR HIM -

*The Mighty Thor* #169, page 17 unused pencils
by Jack Kirby

BALDER IS HURT--BUT URGES HOGUN AND FANDRAL TO CONTINUE BATTLE
USE ANOTHER PLAN--USE STRATEGY
HOGUN YELLS BRING HIM CLOSER
HE'S ABOUT TO SMASH SIDE OF BLDG WITH ALL POWER OF AN IMMORTAL
Jack Kirby—69
17
WHAM--ABANDONED BLDG. GIVES UNDER MIGHTY BLOW AND FRONT WALL SWINGS OUT
AND BURIES CREATURE UNDER MOUNTAIN OF DEBRIS

*The Mighty Thor* #169, page 20 unused pencils
by Jack Kirby

THOR SEES LARGE AMERICAN CITY RAVAGED BY FIRE -- WHO DID THIS?
GALACTUS SAYS THIS IS CULPRIT -- A STRANGE, INVINCIBLE DESTROYER --
THOR YELLS SHOW ME NO MORE! I MUST GO TO EARTH! RELEASE MY SHIP FROM ITS TRAP
GALACTUS SAYS -- I'LL GO TOO --
IT WILL BE A CHANGE TO SAVE INSTEAD OF
THOR SAYS -- I ACCEPT YOU AS AN ALLY -- WE
JACK KIRBY

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